

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

**Supplemental Statement****Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**

For Six Month Period Ending

4/30/2016  
(insert date)**I - REGISTRANT**

1. (a) Name of Registrant

(b) Registration No.

5773GEORFREY WEILL ASSOCIATES

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

27 WEST 24TH STREET  
SUITE 305  
NEW YORK, NY 10010

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

(a) If an individual:

- |                           |                              |                             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

(b) If an organization:

- |                          |                              |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

**IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).**3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C<sup>1</sup>, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C?

Yes ☐No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

<sup>1</sup> The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Position

Date Connection Ended

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Residence Address

Citizenship

Position

Date Assumed

5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☒ No ☒

Name

Residence Address

Citizenship

Position

Date Assumed

REBECCA  
SOPHIA  
SINGELENBERG319 SOUTH 5th ST.  
APT. 2  
BROOKLYN, NY 11211

USA

Account  
Executive

4/4/2016

(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Position or Connection

Date Terminated

(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Position or Connection

Foreign Principal

Date Terminated

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☒No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

**II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL**

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒
- If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)<sup>2</sup> during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒
- If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)<sup>2</sup> whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A<sup>3</sup> Yes ☐ No ☐Exhibit B<sup>4</sup> Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

<sup>2</sup> The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

<sup>3</sup> The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3, sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

<sup>4</sup> The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4, sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

ISRAEL MINISTRY OF TOURISM

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity<sup>5</sup> as defined below? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

<sup>5</sup> "Political activity," as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act, means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.



## IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## 14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.<sup>6</sup>

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
MONTHLY	ISRAEL MINISTRY OF TOURISM	RETAINER FEE FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS	\$ 39,000

\$ 39,000  
Total

## (b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign<sup>7</sup>, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D<sup>8</sup> to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date \_\_\_\_\_

## (c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value<sup>9</sup> other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

**15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
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Total

**(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value<sup>10</sup> other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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**(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value<sup>11</sup> in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------

<sup>10, 11</sup> Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

## V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?<sup>12</sup>  
 Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

ISRAEL MINISTRY OF TOURISM

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

ISRAEL MINISTRY OF TOURISM PAYS A MONTHLY RETAINER OF \$39,000.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- ☒ Radio or TV broadcasts ☒ Magazine or newspaper ☐ Motion picture films ☒ Letters or telegrams  
☐ Advertising campaigns ☒ Press releases ☐ Pamphlets or other publications ☒ Lectures or speeches  
☒ Other (specify) MEDIA EVENTS

Electronic Communications

☒ Email

☐ Website URL(s):

☒ Social media websites URL(s): FACEBOOK/GO ISRAEL

☒ Other (specify) @ ISRAEL TOURISM (TWITTER)

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- ☐ Public officials ☒ Newspapers ☐ Libraries  
☐ Legislators ☒ Editors ☐ Educational institutions  
☐ Government agencies ☐ Civic groups or associations ☐ Nationality groups  
☐ Other (specify)

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

☒ English

☐ Other (specify)

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes ☒

No ☐

<sup>12</sup> The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

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**VI - EXECUTION**

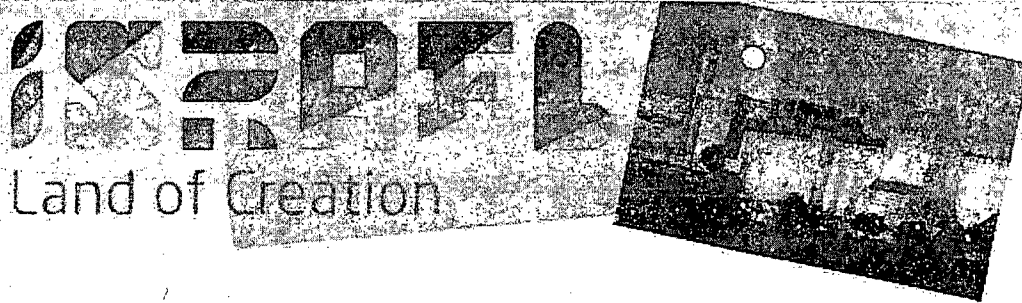
In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature<sup>13</sup>)May 25, 2016Nurith Laura Myers  
NURITH LAURA MYERS

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<sup>13</sup> This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.



PRESS RELEASE

## ISRAEL MINISTRY OF TOURISM LAUNCHES FACEBOOK SWEEPSTAKES FOR CHANUKAH



New York - December 7, 2015: This Chanukah, the Israel Ministry of Tourism has decided to offer the ultimate Chanukah gift: a trip to Israel.

From now through December 13, 2015, the public can enter to win a trip for two to Israel, including two round-trip flights and accommodations for five nights in Israel. Entries can be made by visiting the [Israel Tourism Facebook page](#). Contestants are invited to visit this page each night of Chanukah and enter to receive an additional daily entry.

Find more information [here](#).

### MEDIA CONTACTS

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Beth Levin **WEILL** - [blevin@geoffreyweill.com](mailto:blevin@geoffreyweill.com) - 1-866-PRWEILL

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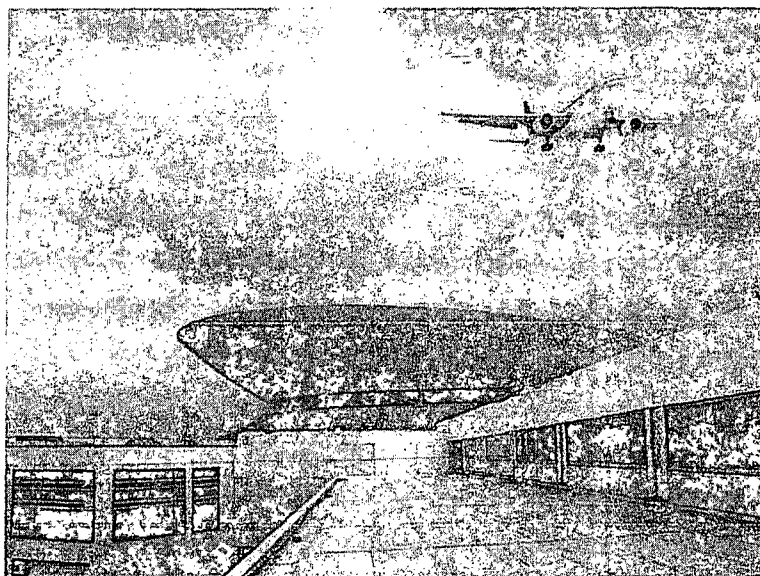


Land of Creation



PRESS RELEASE

## **BEN GURION AIRPORT NAMED ONE OF THE TOP INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS BY *CONDÉ NAST* TRAVELER READERS**



New York - December 9, 2015: Readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine have ranked Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport the fourth best airport in the world, as part of the magazine's list of top 10 international airports. Israel's international airport outranked the renowned airports of Seoul, Tokyo, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Zurich and Vancouver, and is preceded on the list by only Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai.



*Condé Nast Traveler* describes Ben Gurion Airport as one of the world's most secure airports, noting that "15 million passengers passed through here in 2014 and it has consistently won awards for best airport in the Middle East."

Named after Israel's first prime minister, the airport was commended particularly for its easy access to downtown Tel Aviv, located only nine miles to the northwest. The airport, which was renovated and expanded in 2004, is comprised of two main terminals.



Find the full list of *Condé Nast Traveler's* top 10 international airports here:

[www.cntraveler.com/galleries/2015-12-01/the-10-best-international-airports-readers-choice-awards-2015](http://www.cntraveler.com/galleries/2015-12-01/the-10-best-international-airports-readers-choice-awards-2015)

#### MEDIA CONTACTS

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## PRESS RELEASE

### GERMAN AND ISRAELI TOURISM PROJECT TO PROMOTE SPIRITUAL TRAVEL FROM THE U.S.

New York - December 15, 2015: The German National Tourist Office (GNTB) and the Israel Ministry of Tourism are joining efforts in marketing spiritual travel to Americans in order to further increase incoming travel to the two countries. A corresponding project was agreed upon on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Germany and Israel establishing their diplomatic relationship.

Israel's Minister of Tourism, Yariv Levin explains: "I congratulate everyone on this important cooperative venture. I am sure this project will attract a large number of spiritual travelers and pilgrims to both Germany and Israel. Israel's holy sites are important attractions for travelers, and the joint project 'In the Footsteps of Jesus and Martin Luther' offers an excellent opportunity to experience the beginnings of the Christian belief."

Iris Gleicke, Federal Government Commissioner for Tourism and Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy in Germany states: "Without a doubt, the German-Israeli relationship will always be unique due to Germany's historic responsibility for the Holocaust. It was 50 years ago that the Federal Republic of Germany and Israel started their diplomatic relationship. Today, our two countries are closely and amicably linked through varied political, cultural and economic ties, and I am very pleased that we will work together even closer going forward thanks to the joint tourism project 'In the Footsteps of Jesus and Martin Luther.'"

At the initiative's core is the development of a cross-national tourism product called 'In the Footsteps of Jesus and Martin Luther.' The five-day trip through the Holy Land follows Jesus' path of life from his hometown of Nazareth through Galilee to Jerusalem. The tourism attractions include places such as Cana, site of Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine, scenic highlights such as the Sea of Galilee and the historic sites of Jerusalem. The five-day Reformation tour through Germany leads from the capital city of Berlin to the places where Martin Luther lived and worked: Wittenberg, Eisleben, Erfurt and Eisenach, finishing in Frankfurt am Main.

The joint marketing and PR activities will focus on targeting select media, travel industry multipliers, specialists in religious group travel, as well as members of the clergy and leaders of Christian groups.

The plan of action for 2016 includes promotion at road shows in the US, joint PR events, distribution of joint newsletters, joint attendance at the annual convention of the Evangelical Press Association and a combined press trip with a video blogger.

Petra Hedorfer, CEO of the GNTB commented on the signing of the cooperation agreement: "With more than 100 million Protestants, the US is one of the core markets for our activities concerning the 2017 theme campaign 'Martin Luther - 500 years of the reformation in Germany.' The cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Tourism is an excellent addition to our long-term marketing strategy for promoting the whole Luther decade and offers a great platform for international understanding."

Amir Halevi, Director-General of the Israel Ministry of Tourism states: "The ancient places of origin of Christianity are some of the most important tourist attractions in Israel. Numerous believers from around the world travel to Israel to discover the roots of their Christian faith at these holy sites. 1500 years later, Luther and the reformation movement in Germany not only changed the Christian church but also shaped the development of Europe in the modern era. Our joint tourism project 'In the Footsteps of Jesus and Martin Luther' offers the unique opportunity to experience these world cultures' formative influences in their full magnitude and complexity."

#### **About the GNTB:**

*The German National Tourist Board (GNTB) has its headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. It works on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) to represent Germany as a tourist destination and is funded by the Ministry in accordance with a decision taken by the German Bundestag. The GNTB develops and communicates strategies and products to promote Germany's positive image abroad as a tourist destination and to encourage tourists to visit the country. It has 30 agencies around the world to support its activities. More information can be found in our online press center at [www.germany.travel/press](http://www.germany.travel/press).*

#### **About the Israel Ministry of Tourism:**

*The Israel Ministry of Tourism is a government department whose role is to encourage tourism to Israel from six continents through a variety of promotional disciplines. In Israel, the Ministry oversees the training and licensing of guides and works with municipalities and local tourism organizations throughout the country to encourage the construction of hotels, the development and maintenance of tourism sites and the ongoing upgrading of tourism facilities.*

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

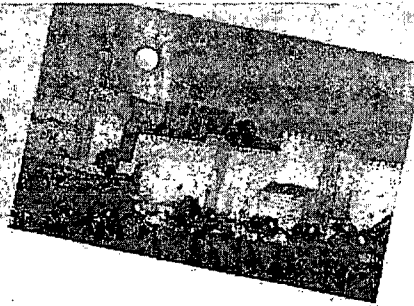
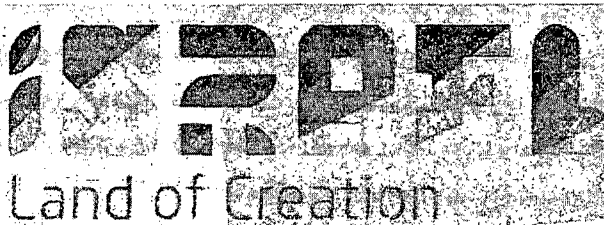
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**PRESS RELEASE**

## **IT'S OFFICIAL: 2015 BEST YEAR EVER FOR AMERICAN TOURISM TO ISRAEL**

**New York - January 12, 2016:** "It's official," says Uri Steinberg, Israel Tourism Commissioner for North America, "more Americans visited Israel in 2015 than in any year since Israel was reborn in 1948."

The tourism statistics released today show that some 620,000 Americans visited Israel in 2015, 3% more than in 2014, the previous record year. "For much of the year, tourism specialists were seeing a monthly increase in arrivals," Steinberg observed, "but only with the end-of-year statistics could we be really sure that we'd broken the all-time record."

In addition, tourism from Canada and Mexico also broke records, with a 2% increase over 2014 from Canada, and a surge of 8% from Mexico - with a total of 802,000 North Americans visiting Israel in 2015.

As a result of the increasing interest in Israel vacations, airlines are upping the number of U.S. - Israel flights. El Al Israel Airlines is adding departures from both JFK and Los Angeles; Delta is adding an additional five flights a week from New York to its existing daily service; and in April United is launching nonstop service from San Francisco to Tel Aviv, in addition to its two daily flights from New York.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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PRESS RELEASE

## RECORD US-ISRAEL TOURISM YEAR BRINGS UNPRECEDENTED ISRAEL TRAVEL COVERAGE IN PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

**New York - January 25, 2016:** 2015 was the best year ever for U.S. tourism to Israel, with more Americans visiting the country than in any other year since its foundation in 1948. It has also been an extraordinary year for Israel tourism in the media. Reaching more than two billion people through more than 200 web and 70 print articles, travel to Israel has been a hot topic within the industry's top consumer and travel trade publications, blogs and websites. From the annual Masada Opera Festival featured in *The New York Times* and Tel Aviv's incredible food scene illustrated in *Condé Nast Traveler*, to Israel's burgeoning sophistication in *Travel+Leisure* and *Ultratravel*, to Tel Aviv Fashion Week showcased in *Glamour*, 2015 has seen an unprecedented wealth of articles and messaging inspiring travel to Israel. As a result of the work done by the Ministry of Tourism to bring journalists to Israel in 2015, tourism messages totaled 2.68 billion online impressions; print articles reached more than 90 million readers.

Find all the articles from 2015 [here](#), and some US media highlights from the year below:

***The New York Times:*** "In Israel, Opera Echoes from Rocks and Ruins"

[mobile.nytimes.com/2015/03/22/travel/in-israel-opera-echoes-from-rocks-and-ruins.html](http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/03/22/travel/in-israel-opera-echoes-from-rocks-and-ruins.html)

***Condé Nast Traveler:*** "Chef's Picks: The Best New Places to Eat and Drink in Tel Aviv"

[www.cntraveler.com/stories/2015-12-18/beyond-falafel-chefs-share-whats-trending-in-tel-aviv](http://www.cntraveler.com/stories/2015-12-18/beyond-falafel-chefs-share-whats-trending-in-tel-aviv)

***Travel+Leisure:*** "Tel Aviv - The Luxe Factor"

[www.travelandleisure.com/articles/israel-travel](http://www.travelandleisure.com/articles/israel-travel)

**Paper:** "Why Tel Aviv is One of Street Art's Most Important Hubs Right Now"

[www.papermag.com/2015/05/tel\\_aviv\\_street\\_art.php](http://www.papermag.com/2015/05/tel_aviv_street_art.php)

**Gear Patrol:** "72 Hours in Tel Aviv"

[gearpatrol.com/2015/07/24/tel-aviv-travel-guide](http://gearpatrol.com/2015/07/24/tel-aviv-travel-guide)

**Glamour:** "For Israeli Designers, Tel Aviv Fashion Week Highlights More Than Style"

[www.glamour.com/fashion/blogs/dressed/2015/10/tel-aviv-fashion-week](http://www.glamour.com/fashion/blogs/dressed/2015/10/tel-aviv-fashion-week)

**Honest Cooking:** "Must-try Bites in Tel Aviv"

[honestcooking.com/must-try-bites-in-tel-aviv](http://honestcooking.com/must-try-bites-in-tel-aviv)

**Ultratravel:** "Vantage Point"

[See the article here](#)

**New York Post:** "Culture's New Promised Land"

[See the article here](#)

**A Rare World:** "The Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya / Dawning of a five-star Israel"

[See the article here](#)

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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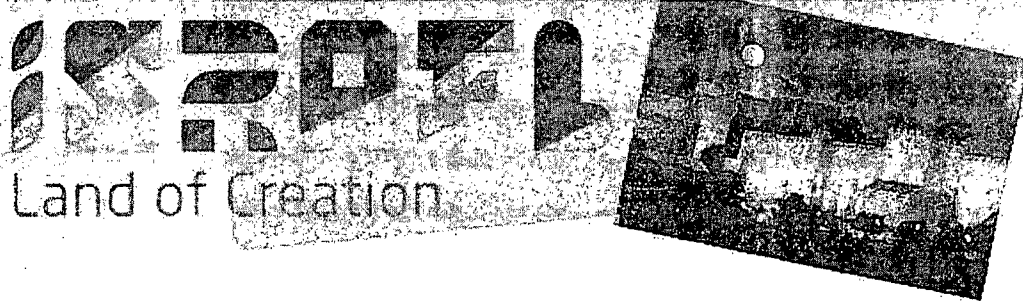
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PRESS RELEASE

## 2016 BEGINS WITH INCREASE IN AMERICAN TOURISM TO ISRAEL

New York - February 9, 2016: Coming off the heels of a record year for American tourism in Israel, the Israel Ministry of Tourism has announced today that January 2016 has seen an 8% increase in tourism from the U.S. compared to January 2015. Among Canadian tourists, the country has seen a 9% increase.

"Following a banner year in 2015, it's fantastic to see 2016 start out with such high numbers," says Uri Steinberg, Israel Tourism Commissioner for North America. "We foresee 2016 to be another record year for tourism."

With some 620,000 Americans visiting Israel last year, 2015 was the best year ever for U.S. tourism to Israel, with more Americans visiting the country than in any other year since its foundation in 1948. In addition, tourism from Canada and Mexico also broke records, with a 2% increase over 2014 from Canada, and a surge of 8% from Mexico - with a total of 802,000 North Americans visiting Israel in 2015.

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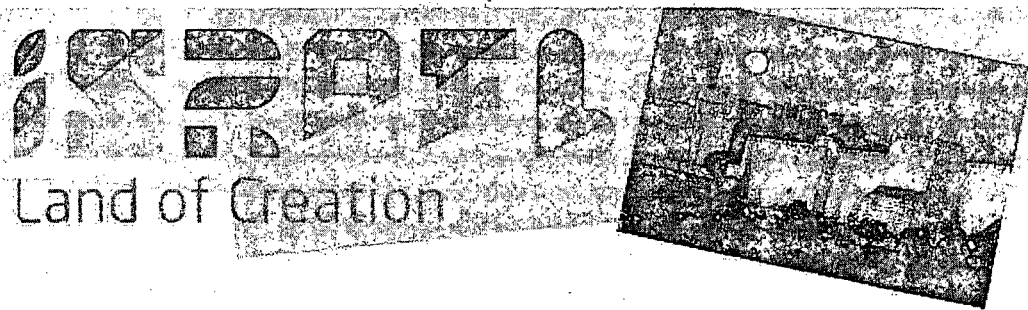
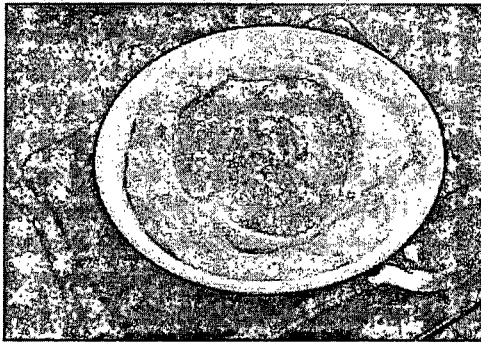


PHOTO RELEASE

## AN EVENING WITH CHEF MICHAEL SOLOMONOV



*Clockwise from top left: Freshly made hummus; Eyal Carlin, Director of Israel Ministry of Tourism, Southern Region, with Jacqueline Allen, Executive Assistant to the Consul General, and Eileen Mason of Israel Tour Company; "cheers" to Chef Solomonov; and Consul General Judith Varnai Shorer (middle) with Susana Braner, LDEI member (left), and Suzanne Brown, LDEI member and event organizer (right).*

*\*All photos by Travis Taylor*

**New York - February 24, 2016:** The Israel Ministry of Tourism and Israeli Consulate of the Southeastern US, in partnership with Les Dames d'Escoffier International, celebrated "An Evening of Israeli Food, Culture and Tradition" at the home of the Israeli Ambassador Consul General Judith Varnai Shorer on February 17, 2016.

For the occasion, James Beard Award-winning chef-restaurateur Michael Solomonov presented his Israeli-American take on centuries-old recipes shared around the Jewish family table.

Chef Michael Solomonov also took this occasion to speak about the new documentary, "In Search of Israeli Cuisine," which was recently screened at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival. Chef Solomonov spoke about what inspired him to create his award-winning Philadelphia restaurant, Zahav, and signed copies of his acclaimed new cookbook, *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking*.



*Solomonov signing his cookbook.*

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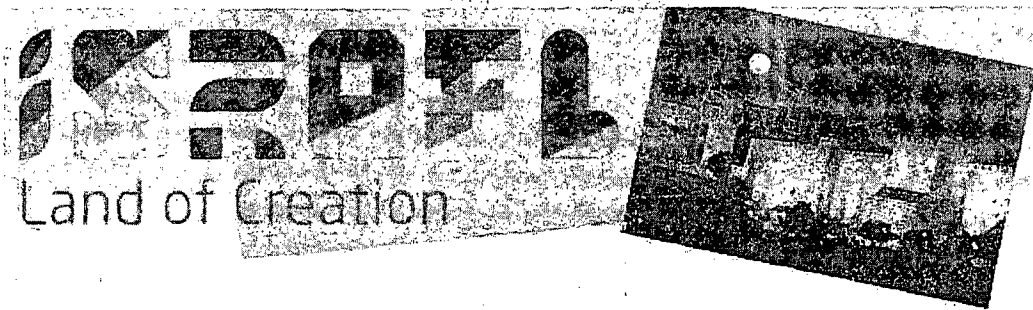
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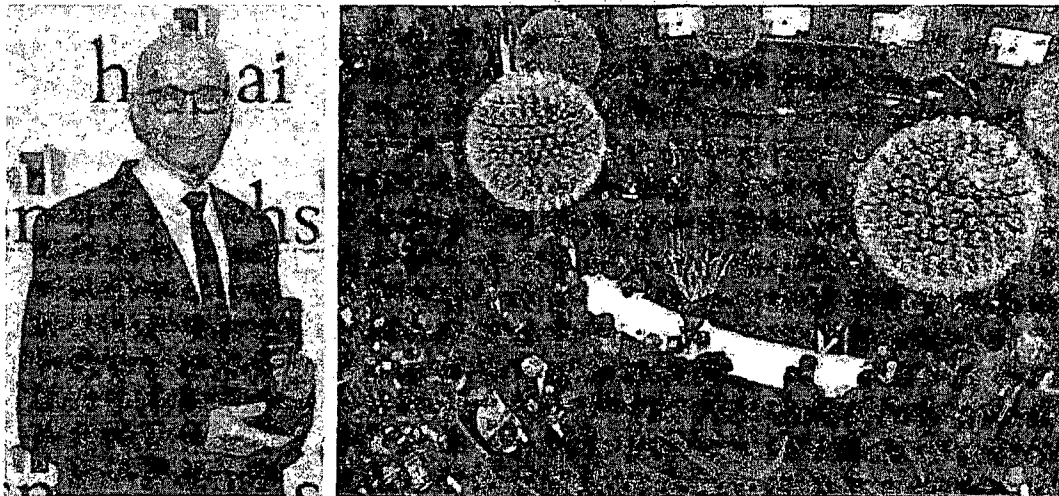
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PRESS RELEASE

## ISRAEL MINISTRY OF TOURISM WINS PRESTIGIOUS PLATINUM ADRIAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS



Left: Uri Steinberg accepts the Platinum Adrian Award. Right: Adrian Awards' opening reception

New York - February 26, 2016: The Israel Ministry of Tourism North America has won a coveted Platinum Adrian Award for its work in promoting tourism to Israel, it was announced last week in New York. The Adrian Awards are considered the gold standard in tourism-related marketing and are presented annually by the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMAI) at a gala ceremony in Manhattan.

Of the thousands of annual awards, only a select 12 are deemed annually by the organizers worthy of "platinum" status. The Platinum Adrian Award presented to the Israel Ministry of Tourism was the result of a feature travel story in *Ultratravel* magazine and is one of a total of three 2015 awards (two Gold) garnered by the Ministry.

"We are thrilled to be recognized for our work creating awareness of Israel as a vibrant and sophisticated travel destination," said Uri Steinberg, Israel Tourism Commissioner for North America, in accepting the award. "Last year marked a record year for U.S. tourism to Israel and we are honored for our achievements to be acknowledged by our peers in the travel industry."

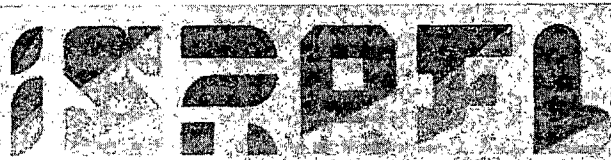
For more information about travel to Israel, visit [www.israel.travel](http://www.israel.travel).

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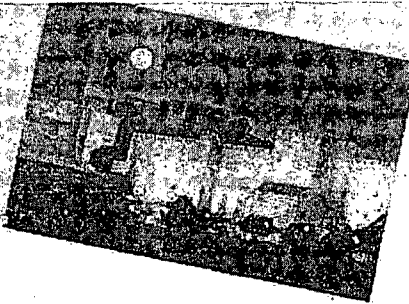
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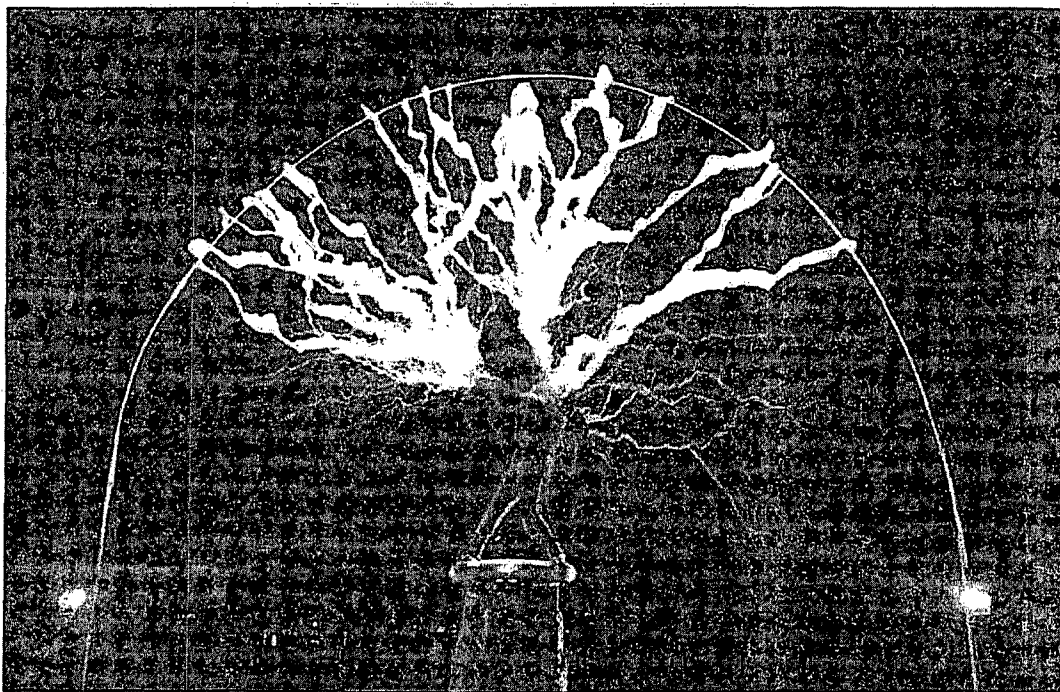


Land of Creation



PRESS RELEASE

## INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL *GEEK PICNIC* TO TAKE PLACE IN JERUSALEM



New York - March 10, 2016: *Geek Picnic*, an international science and technology festival, is scheduled to take place this year from April 25-27 at Jerusalem's Sacher Park, a 40-acre green expanse in the city center. Founded in 2011, *Geek Picnic* is an annual science and technology

open-air festival that started in St. Petersburg, Russia. The event is geared towards tech and science professionals and science enthusiasts of all ages who are fans of gadgets, gaming, virtual-reality experiences and wearable tech. Approximately 45,000 visitors are expected to attend the three-day celebration of technological innovation, which will feature exhibits devoted to "The Lightning Show," "The Hand of God," "The World of 3D Printing," "Virtual Reality," "My Android Friend," "An Airborne Duel" and more.

For more information and tickets, see: [www.geekpicnic.co.il/en](http://www.geekpicnic.co.il/en)

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PRESS RELEASE

## A 75-DAY JOURNEY ALONG THE ISRAEL NATIONAL TRAIL BEGINS MARCH 25



New York - March 11, 2016: Starting March 25, 2016, backpackers from Israel and abroad will embark on a 75-day adventure walking the Israel National Trail with non-profit organization WalkAboutLove. Beginning in Eilat, the scenic trail winds through the Mitzpe Ramon Crater, the Arava Desert and the Negev, up to Jerusalem, Caesarea, the lush Galilee and the Golan Heights, finally ending at Mount Hermon.

WalkAboutLove offers those interested in Israeli culture the incredible opportunity to discover the country through a combination of nature, culture, history and unique traditions. Participants have the option of taking on the full 75-day trek, or joining in on shorter lengths of the trail (a minimum of 10 days is required). WalkAboutLove takes care of all the logistics, including transferring participants' personal items from campsite to campsite, preparing food, and providing mattresses. During the weekends, a large tent is set up to host lectures and workshops. Evenings are spent around the bonfire, for which participants are encouraged to bring musical instruments.



No prior hiking experience is required, but all participants must either be over 18 years of age or accompanied by a parent.

Find more information here: [www.masawalkaboutlove.com](http://www.masawalkaboutlove.com)

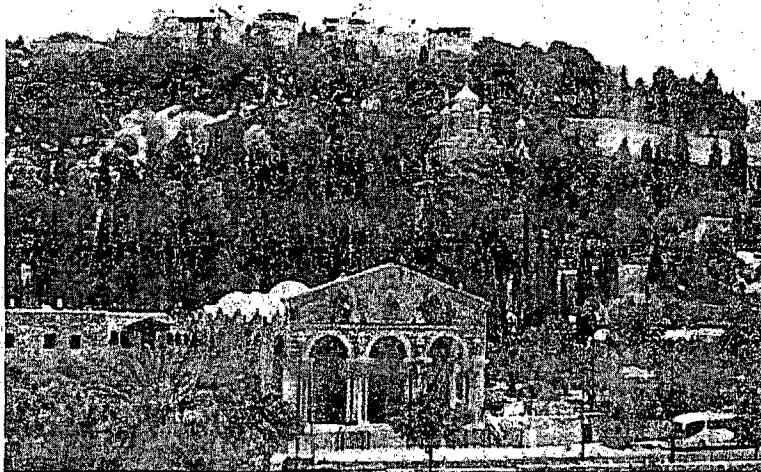
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PRESS RELEASE

## ISRAEL DRAWS CROWDS FOR EASTER



**New York - March 14, 2016:** Tens of thousands of Christians are expected to visit Israel to celebrate Holy Week and Easter in March and April to see the places described in the New Testament firsthand.

On Easter and the preceding Holy Week, pilgrims from all over the world gather in Jerusalem. For Orthodox and Catholic Christians, celebrations focus on the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where six historic denominations have marked the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus since the fourth century. Protestants in Jerusalem flock to the Sunrise Service at the Garden Tomb, a religious site believed by many to be the garden of Joseph of Arimathea in which Jesus was buried after his crucifixion.

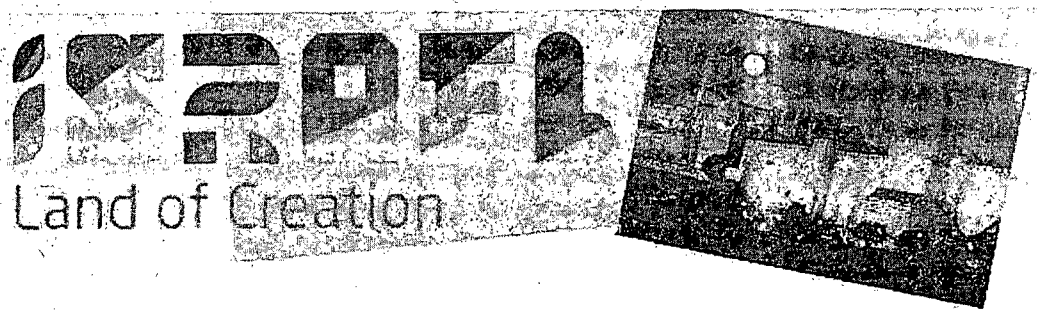
The Catholic Holy Week officially begins on March 20, 2016 with the celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The highlights of the day will be the solemn mass at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher with the Blessing of the Palms and the traditional palm procession, which begins at 2:30 P.M. and goes from the church of Bethphage down the western slope of the Mount of Olives across the Kidron Valley and into the Old City of Jerusalem. Thousands of Christians from

around the world are expected to join the march.

For information about the Christian services taking place during the Holy Week and Easter celebrations in Jerusalem and other cities in Israel, visit the Christian Information Center at [www.cicts.org](http://www.cicts.org).

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**MEDIA ALERT**

## **NBC TODAY SHOW HIGHLIGHTS ISRAEL**

**New York - March 18, 2016:** On March 21, 22 and 23, NBC's nationwide TODAY show highlights the recent visit to Israel by co-anchor Kathie Lee Gifford. Gifford, who first visited the Holy Land when she was 17, toured much of the country. In Tel Aviv she biked, played paddle ball and made hummus with actress Noa Tishby. In Jerusalem she placed a prayer in the Western Wall and danced with youngsters at the Western Wall plaza. She noshed in the Machane Yehuda Market and rode a camel atop the Mount of Olives. She floated in the Dead Sea and toured holy sites in the Galilee. Tune into NBC at 10AM (Eastern and Western), 9AM Central and Mountain. Or catch it all at [www.today.com/klgandhoda](http://www.today.com/klgandhoda).

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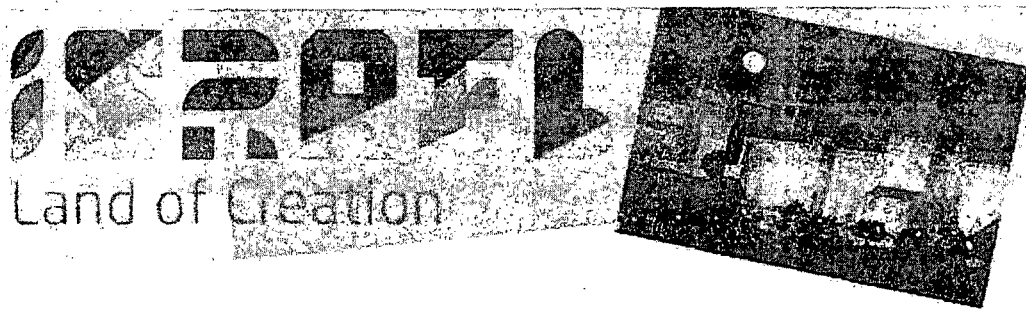
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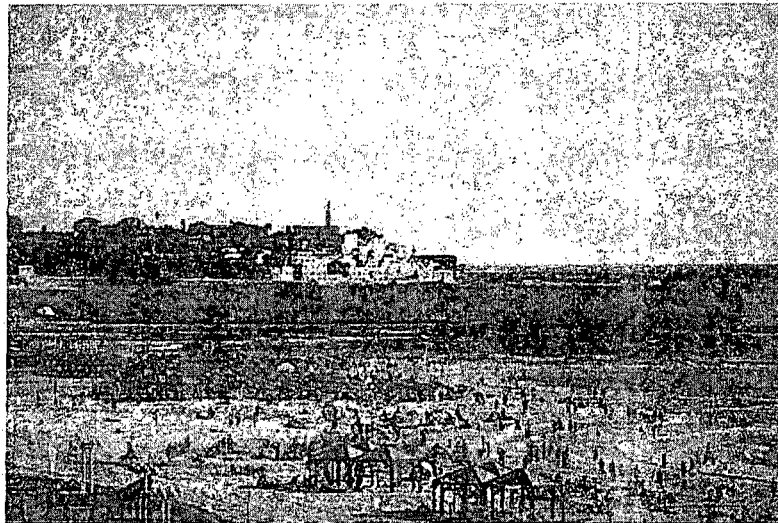
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PRESS RELEASE

## A GUIDE TO SPENDING PASSOVER IN ISRAEL



Pictured above: Tel Aviv Beaches

**New York - April 13, 2016:** The Jewish holiday of Passover commemorates the biblical story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. Today in Israel, the whole country goes on a 'Spring Break' of sorts and warm weather invites sun-seeking tourists from around the world. In addition to the beach barbecues and forest picnics brimming with *matza*, there is a lineup of exhibitions, festivals, and special events throughout the country in honor of this springtime celebration.

Geek PicNic, the largest Eastern European festival dedicated to science, technology, and art, will be hosted outside of Russia for the first time since its creation. From April 25-27, Jerusalem's Sacher Park will host the open-air, entertaining, and educational festival for professionals and tech enthusiasts of all ages.

For those looking for a more historical experience, a number of sites across the country will offer visitors the opportunity to absorb the nation's rich history. The 620-acre, picturesque biblical landscape of Neot Kedumim will offer visitors the opportunity to journey back in time to press

olive oil, pick fruit from the vine, and draw water from an ancient cistern.

In the southern Mamshit National Park, the captivating Nabatean Market hosts an ancient bazaar, where merchants display a variety of rugs, antiques, spices and artisan goods. "The Night Market," taking place on April 27, will feature festive dancing, music and more. In Jerusalem, Ancient Egypt comes to life at the Bible Lands Museum with its new exhibit, *Pharaoh Frenzy*. Visitors are invited to unearth the mysteries behind the pharaohs, mummies, pyramids and more.

The Jerusalem Biblical Zoo is a must-do, where special tours at dusk will be offered throughout Passover, giving visitors a rare behind-the-scenes opportunity to learn how to feed elephants and giraffes. Thrill-seekers can participate in a new and exciting opportunity to rappel down the ancient walls of the Old City. Special harnesses will be used to protect the archeological site from damage while not detracting from the extreme challenge.

Tel Aviv will also offer a diverse and entertaining agenda for the week. Dali at the Port, a new exhibition in Hangar 11 of the Namal Tel Aviv, will display hundreds of Salvador Dali's paintings, sculptures, sketches and photographs, many of which will be in Israel for the first time. This year's International Motor Show (April 24 to 27) will offer futuristic cars, new model launches and interactive exhibitions. On April 29, Motor Extreme will be held in Hayarkon Park, featuring 90 minutes of extreme freestyle motorcycle and ATV racing and aerial stunts.

Furthermore, as with previous years, the Bank Hapoalim will be sponsoring free entry into more than forty museums, national parks and heritage sites in Israel during Passover, including the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, and the Haifa Zoo, among others. The Ministry of Culture and Sports will also host tours and workshops in twelve heritage sites across the country, such as the Palmach Cave and Ramla.

For more information about travel to Israel, please visit: [www.israel.travel](http://www.israel.travel).

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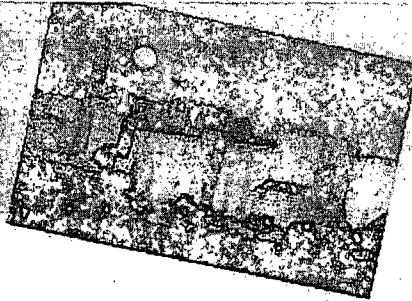
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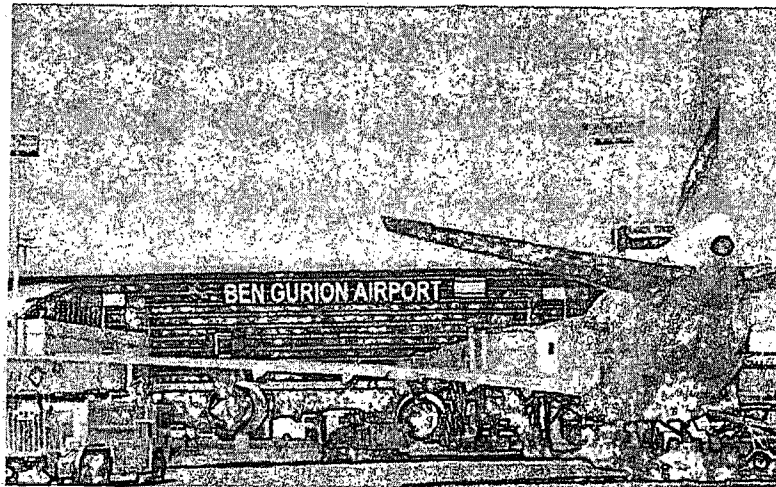
ISRAEL

Land of Creation



PRESS RELEASE

## ISRAEL MINISTRY OF TOURISM LAUNCHES EFFORT TO INCREASE INCOMING FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL



**New York - April 21, 2016:** Some 100 world airlines operate regular flights to Israel, but the country's Ministry of Tourism wants more. It has launched an initiative to encourage direct flights from "new" gateways to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV). In recent years, dozens of airlines have inaugurated service to Israel, and while El Al, Israel's national carrier, remains the number one airline operating flights to and from Tel Aviv, EasyJet has become the airport's number two airline, with multiple daily flights from 10 major European gateways.

Within its scope of promoting tourism to Israel, the Ministry views tourism trade professionals as strategic partners and wants to participate in the marketing efforts of airlines that initiate flights from "new" gateways to Israel. For eligibility, flights must operate from November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017 and possess measurable potential to bring additional tourists to Israel. To be considered a "new" gateway, airports must be located more than 120 kilometers from an airport already servicing direct flights to Israel.

Four airlines currently operate as many as 10 daily flights from North America to Israel (Air Canada, Delta, El Al and United), with nonstop service from Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Newark and San Francisco. 2015 was the best year for North American tourism to Israel, and statistics for the first quarter of 2016 are showing a 9% increase over the record year.

The Ministry of Tourism's will provide subsidies to airlines operating "new" gateway flights, and airlines and airports meeting these criteria are encouraged to submit applications to the Ministry's managing committee for review.

[Click for full details of the initiative.](#)

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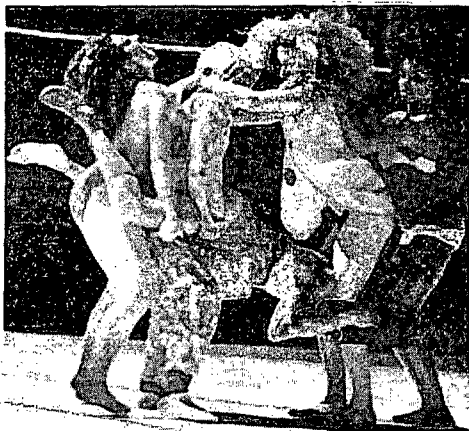
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Additional information available at the Department of Justice.





## THE 2016 ISRAEL FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 55 YEARS MAY 24 - JUNE 11, 2016



*François Chaignaud and Cecilia Bengolea's TWERK*  
(Photo credit: Emile Zeizig)



*Alessandro Sciarroni's FOLK-S*  
(Photo credit: Andrea Macchia)

New York - April 28, 2016: The Israel Festival, which celebrates 55 years as the Middle East's premier international art festival this year, will take place from May 24 through June 11, 2016, and is expected to attract more than 35,000 people from around the world. The festival (curated by directors Eyal Sher and Itzik Giuli) will feature a variety of theater, contemporary dance, classical music and performance art events taking place throughout Jerusalem.

### Festival highlights include:

- An opening concert and tribute to Shoshana Damari, the "Queen of Hebrew Music" on May 24. Set for Safra Square, the concert will include performances by Miri Mesika, Karolina, Ravid Kahalani and Shai Zabari.
- Renowned Belgian artist Jan Fabre's 24-hour theatrical experience performed by his 27-actor troupe.
- Chinese director Wang Chong's advanced version of *Thunderstorm 2.0*, ranked as one of the ten best performances in China of the past 30 years by *The Beijing News*.
- Now in its seventh season, *Center Stage*, by Israeli Director Ori Egoz, will present six new

theatrical mono-dramas.

- The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and the Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra will fuse melodies from Mozart to Scheherazade, in an effort to blur musical boundaries.
- Acclaimed conductor Murry Sidlin will present the works of 15 Jewish composers imprisoned in the Terezin concentration camp during World War II.
- Prominent Italian choreographer Alessandro Sciarroni takes his dancers to the edge in a performance that will bring all of them to the ground in exhaustion.

For a full lineup of events, please click [here](#).

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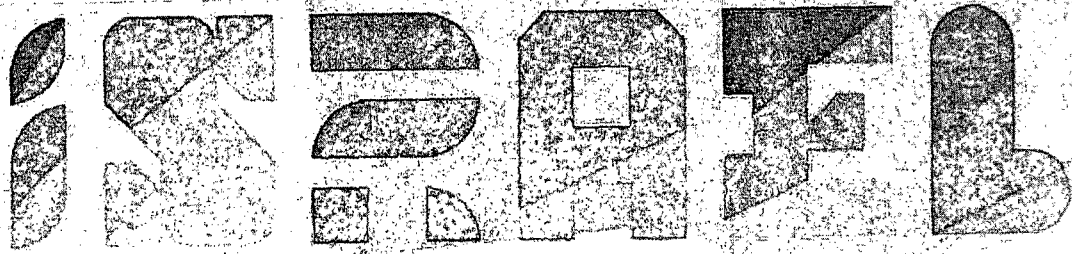
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### THE AKRA, EPIPHANES' LOST CHANUKAH STRONGHOLD IN JERUSALEM, IS FOUND AFTER 2,000- YEAR SEARCH

One of Jerusalem's greatest archeological mysteries has been solved through the discovery of the Greek Akra, Epiphanes' lost stronghold in Jerusalem. The finding, after a 100-year search, reveals the location of city boundaries, main streets and monumental buildings at different times throughout history. Akra was a famous stronghold built more than 2,000 years ago by the Syrian-Greek King Antiochus IV in order to control Jerusalem and monitor activity in the Temple. Its eventual liberation by the Hasmoneans more than two millennia ago is commemorated in the annual festival of Chanukah, celebrated by Jews every December.

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## ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND IN JERUSALEM BRINGS BIBLE TO LIFE

Archeologists from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archaeology recently unearthed a discovery imprinted with the rare seal of King Hezekiah of Judea near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The discovery is an impression of the royal seal of the Biblical King Hezekiah, who reigned between 727-698 BCE. The seal, which is imprinted on a soft bulla (piece of inscribed clay), bears an inscription in ancient Hebrew script reading: "Belonging to Hezekiah [son of] Ahaz king of Judah." The script is accompanied by a two-winged sun, with wings turned downward, surrounded by two symbols meaning "life." The discovery of King Hezekiah's Royal Seal impression vividly brings to life the Biblical narratives about King Hezekiah and the activity conducted during his lifetime in Jerusalem's Royal Quarter.

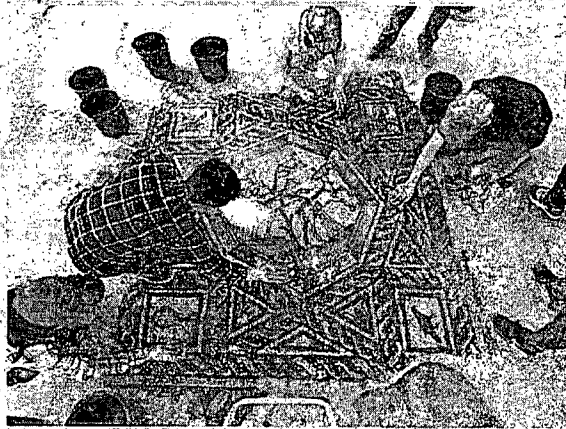


© Eilat Mazar, Photo: David Eshel

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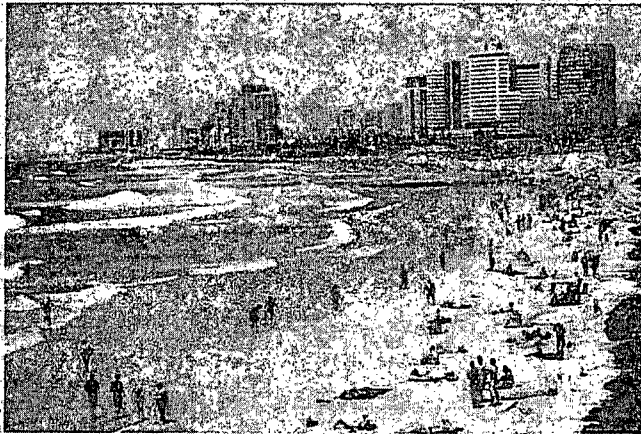
## MOSAIC UNCOVERED IN LOD

While excavating in the Neve Yerek neighborhood of Lod to prepare the ground for construction of a visitors' center, a new colorful mosaic was found. The mosaic is believed to have been used as the courtyard pavement for the villa that once stood on this space. Some 1,700 years ago, another mosaic was found in this same area, which once served as the villa's living room floor. In the current excavations, the southern part of the complex was exposed, which included the magnificent courtyard and mosaic. The scenes in this mosaic depict imagery of hunting, fish, baskets with flowers, vases and birds. In light of the new discoveries, this part of the villa will also be incorporated in the visitor center.



## TEL AVIV RECOGNIZED AS THE MOST GAY-FRIENDLY CITY IN THE WORLD

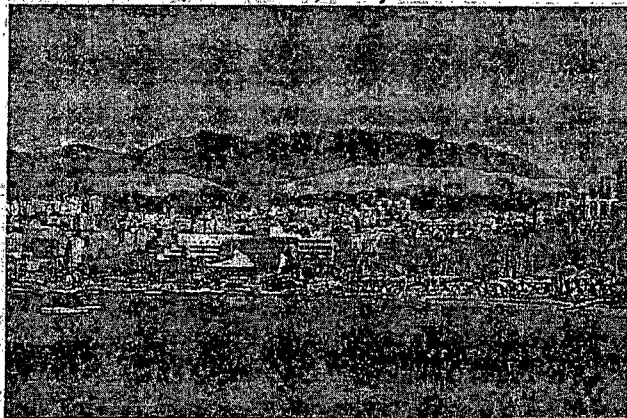
Travel website [WowTravel.me](http://WowTravel.me) has recognized Tel Aviv as the top gay-friendly city in the world. Tel Aviv topped 11 other major international destinations on the list, including London, Berlin, Miami, San Francisco and New York. A number of factors were taken into consideration to create the list, such as economic growth, legal protection, social acceptance, LGBT nightlife and economic opportunities. Tel Aviv is described as "a bubble of sanity in an otherwise difficult and tense area." Commended for being one of the most liberal cities in the world, WowTravel describes Tel Aviv as the "undisputed queer capital of the Middle East," highlighting its 24/7 scene, year-round warm weather, incredible cuisine, gay beaches and nightlife. In June, Gay Pride takes over the city with a week of celebrations and events, including an LGBT Theater festival, LGBT Film Festival and the famous Pride Parade.



Find the full article [here](#).

## HIGH OCCUPANCY ON FLIGHTS INTO EILAT FROM EUROPE THIS WINTER

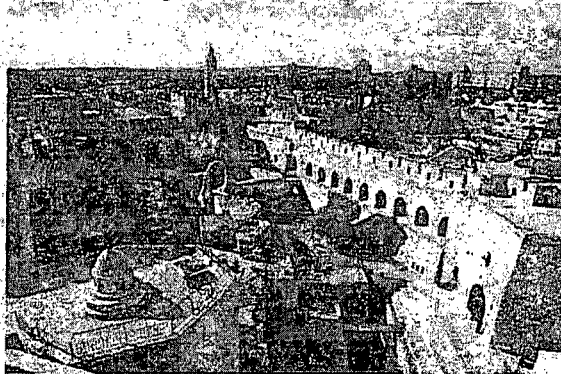
Europe's largest low-cost airline Ryanair has recently launched six weekly flights to Eilat from Kaunas, Budapest and Krakow. Tourism Minister Yairiv Levin commented, "Thanks to the Tourism Ministry incentive to airline companies, about 4,000 tourists flew into Eilat in the last three weeks. This is a vote of confidence for tourism into Israel in general and Eilat in particular." The city is currently planning for the construction of an international congress and convention center adjacent to the casino, an international sports complex, a camping area, a golf course and thousands of additional hotel rooms. The Minister also remarked that "the arrival of Ryanair in Israel proves to us all that it is possible to bring the largest airlines into Israel and, with them, many tourists."





## **AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE TOWER OF DAVID MUSEUM**

The Tower of David Museum received a bronze medal for its Virtual Tour as part of the closing ceremony of the International AVICOM Conference. The 360-degree audiovisual tour highlights the breathtaking views of Jerusalem, the magnificently restored citadel as well as a tour inside the guard rooms that shows the permanent exhibition of the history of Jerusalem. The virtual tour can be found on the Tower of David Museum website [here](#) as well as an explanatory video in English about the tour.



## **CLASSICAL MUSIC COMES TO EILAT IN EARLY 2016**

Eilat, Israel's southernmost resort destination on the Red Sea, promises a year of festivals and entertainment for 2016. The first festival of the new year will be the 18th annual ClassiCameri Festival from January 7-9, bringing in top soloists from Israel and abroad to celebrate 50 years of the Cameri orchestra. From February 1-6, the 11th annual Eilat Chamber Music Festival will take place, which is one of the leading international festivals in Israel and attracts audiences from around the world. The 2016 performances will include flamenco dancing, a baroque orchestra from Germany, Jewish music from Spain and Morocco, and much more. Other upcoming festivals include the Eilat International Bellydance Festival from February 10-13, and the Red Sea Winter Jazz Festival at the end of February.



Concerto Koeln; photo credit: Harald Hoffmann

Find more information [here](#).

## EILAT BIRDS FESTIVAL: MARCH 20-27, 2016

The 10th annual Eilat Birds Festival will take place March 20-27, 2016. The festival, the most significant international event in the Western Palearctic birding scene, is designed to bring together birders from all over the world for an unforgettable week during the peak of spring migration. The festival includes day and night birding tours of all the best sites in southern Israel, as well as bird-related activities, presentations, talks and more. In 2015, some significant birds made an appearance over the week, including rare breeds such as the Caspian Plover, Cyprus and Pied Wheatears, and Black Bush Robin.



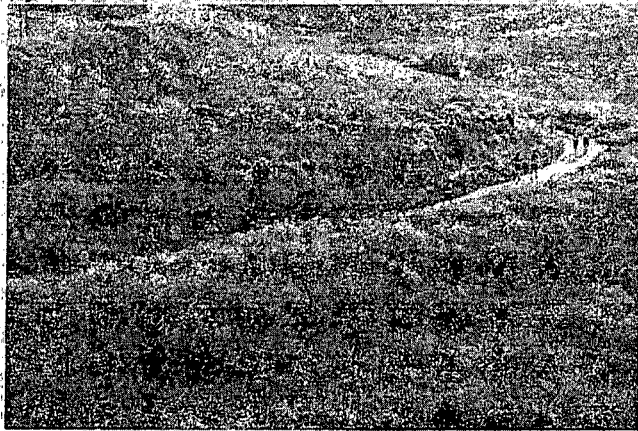
Photo Credit: Dov Greenblat, SPNI

Find more information [here](#).



## **MOUNTAIN TO VALLEY RELAY RACE: MAY 18-20, 2016**

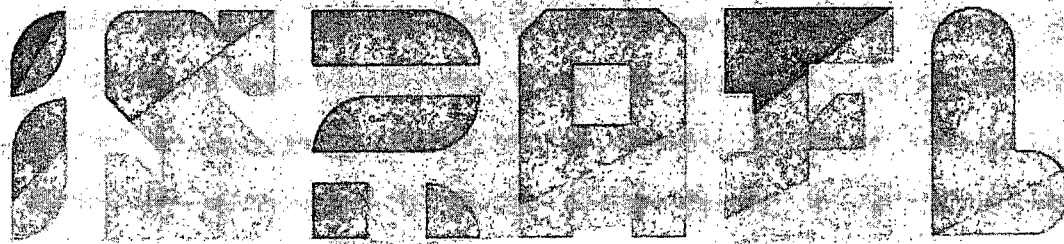
The Mountain to Valley Relay Race is an annual sporting event that has taken place for the last eight years in the North of Israel and organized by the Mountain to Valley (M2V) Association. Close to 10,000 people are expected to participate in this year's race, taking place from May 18-20, 2016. Following the success of last year's race, the relay will for the second time be open to tourists visiting from abroad. The route starts in Tel-Hai, continues along the Northern Jordan River Valley, passes the Hula Valley Nature Reserve and meets the north section of the Sea of Galilee. The route then climbs and crosses the Lower Galilee Mountain Range, crossing the Jezreel Valley into the Mountains of Menashe, and finally ends at Timrat, just west of Nazareth.



Find more information [here](#).

**Geoffrey Weill Associates**

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### ISRAEL'S MARATHON SEASON KICKS OFF

Marathons are in full swing in Israel, which recently played host to the International Tiberias Sea of Galilee Marathon on January 8 of this year. Coming up next is Israman, taking place from January 27-30, 2016. This grueling competition, ranked as one of the top 10 most challenging triathlons in the world, takes place in the coastal resort town of Eilat. The Tel Aviv Marathon kicks off on February 26 and on February 6, The Ein Gedi Experience will take place, a half marathon held at Masada. The Jerusalem Marathon takes place on March 18, drawing in more than 20,000 runners. The 23rd annual Herzilya Women's Triathlon happens on May 5, and the second ever Bible Marathon will be on October 21.

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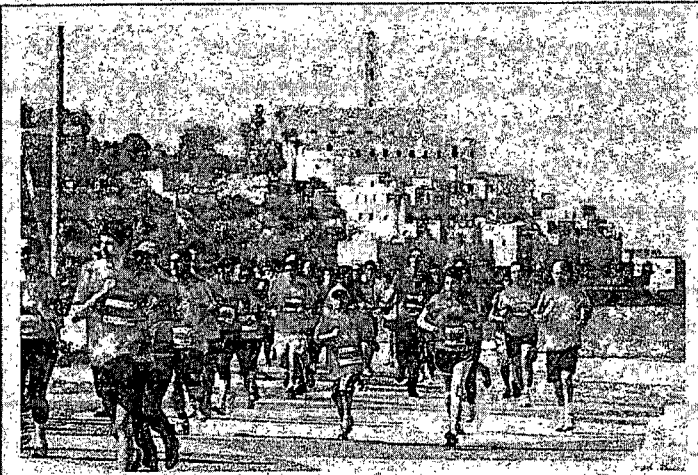
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## INTERNATIONAL ARAD DEAD SEA GRAN FONDO: MARCH 3-5, 2016

The International Arad Dead Sea Gran Fondo will take place at the Dead Sea from March 3-5, 2016. The Gran Fondo (Italian for "the big race") is a challenging cycling event that takes place at the lowest point on earth. The ideal weather conditions of Israel's mild winter combined with the spectacular desert scenery make this an incredible race. The goal of the Gran Fondo is to fill the gap between team cycling challenges and professional cycling competitions.



Find more information [here](#).

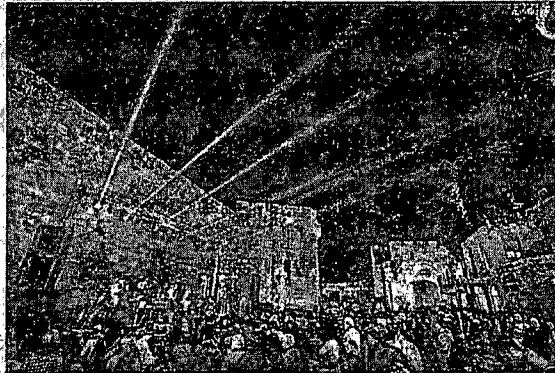
## SOUNDS OF THE OLD CITY FESTIVAL MARCH 28-31, 2016

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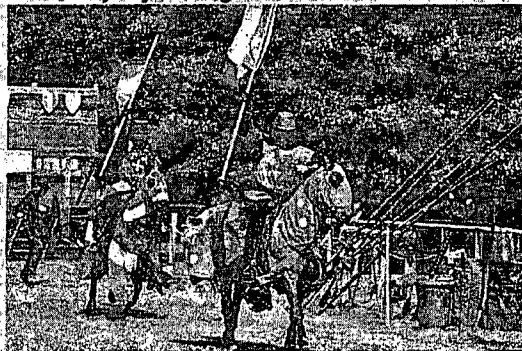
The Sounds of the Old City Festival will be held for its fifth year from March 28-31, 2016, taking place from 7PM to 11PM each night. The festival, which is free and open to the public, offers a glimpse into the vibrant local musical traditions present within Jerusalem's Old City. Bands and local musicians will perform in the streets of the Old City, each playing music unique to the quarter and area in which they are performing.



Find more information [here](#).

## EXPLORE THE OLD CITY OF ACRE BY DAY AND FEAST WITH ROYAL KNIGHTS BY NIGHT

Visitors to the Old City of Acre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, can now truly step into the past at the Acre citadel. Every Tuesday and Thursday evening, visitors are invited to join King Richard the Lionheart and his wife in a royal feast and ball. Held in the Crusader Hall, built during the time the Crusader Knights ruled the area, visitors will be able to feast on a traditional banquet inspired by the Middle Ages. To complete the experience, guests must eat using their hands and the meals are served by singing waiters dressed in costume. Following the feast, visitors can watch a royal jousting tournament.



Find more information [here](#).

## MUSIC LEGENDS COME TO ISRAEL

Legendary singer-songwriter Sir Elton John has announced that he will be performing in the HaYarkon Park, Tel Aviv on May 26, 2016 as part of his Wonderful Crazy Night Tour to promote his new album of the same name. This will be the fourth concert in Israel for the British singer. Other performances in the works include pop sensation Sia, famous for her hit song "Chandelier," who is scheduled to play in Tel Aviv at the end of May, and legendary band Foreigner at the Caesarea Amphitheater on June 14 and 15.



Find more information [here](#).

## TEL AVIV'S NORMAN HOTEL NAMED "WORLD'S BEST NEW BOUTIQUE HOTEL"

Tel Aviv's Norman Hotel was recognized as the World's Best New Boutique Hotel in December 2015. The Boutique Hotel Awards described The Norman "as a fusion of 1920 grandeur and contemporary elegance, steeped with historic charm, whilst at the same time providing high-tech sophistication and comfort inside...all the bedrooms are uniquely designed with high ceilings and spacious bathrooms. To top off the experience, the staff offer exceptional service, and go the extra mile to make guests feel at home. With an efficient and courteous manner at all times, and great attention to detail, they really do ensure guests have the perfect, intimate stay at The Norman hotel."



Find more information [here](#).

## TOURISM MINISTER WELCOMES ALL TO ISRAEL

At the annual pre-Christmas reception held for the heads of the Christian churches and communities, ambassadors and diplomats, Tourism Minister Yariv Levin noted that:

"For the first time in history, after thousands of years of religious bans and restrictions in the Holy Land, today every believer can enjoy complete freedom of worship here. The State of Israel is committed to maintaining freedom of religion and to facilitating access for every believer to the holy sites."



Photo Credit: Daphna Tal

## THE DEAD DAISIES IN TEL AVIV

Famous Australian-American rock band, The Dead Daisies, stayed at the Dan Tel Aviv Hotel for eight nights in December when they were in town to play two concerts. Band members include Richard Fortus (guitarist for Guns



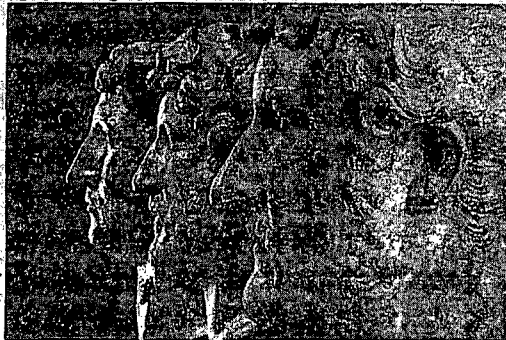
N' Roses) and Darren Reed (singer for Axl Rose). The musicians were welcomed in beautiful suites overlooking the Mediterranean.



Pictured above: John Corabi, Richard Fortus, Marco Mendoza, Dan Tel Aviv General Manager Etai Eliaz, Darren Reed, Brian Tichy.

## NEW EXHIBIT AT ISRAEL MUSEUM JERUSALEM DISPLAYS 2ND-CENTURY BRONZE PORTRAITS

On display through June 30, 2016, *Hadrian: An Emperor Cast in Bronze*, concludes the Israel Museum's celebrations of its 50th anniversary. The exhibit is among a series of special exhibits highlighting masterpieces from sister institutions loaned in tribute to the museum, including the British Museum and the Louvre. Three bronze portraits of the Emperor Hadrian (117 - 138 CE), one of the boldest and most accomplished rulers of the Roman Empire, have been brought together for the first time for this exhibit.

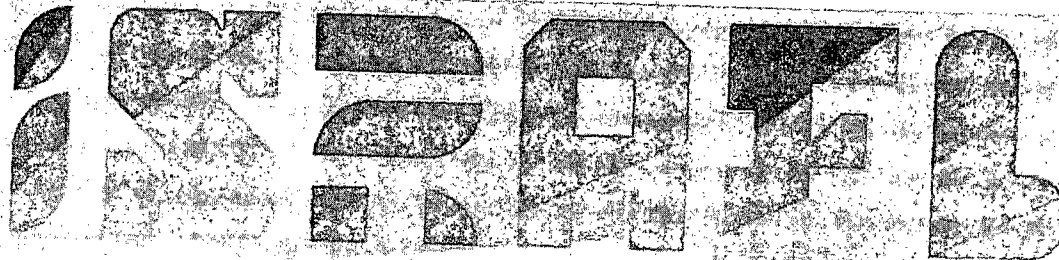


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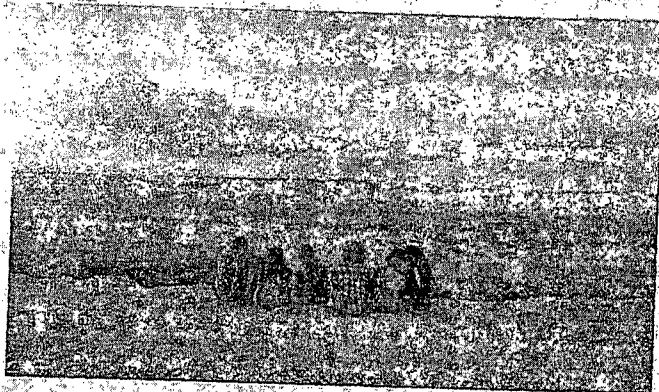
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### 2016 BEGINS WITH INCREASE IN AMERICAN TOURISM TO ISRAEL

Coming on the heels of 2015 -- the best year ever for American tourism in Israel -- Israel saw a further 8% increase in tourism from the U.S. in January 2016 over January 2015, as well as 9% more Canadians. A great start to a new year!



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## TOP BIRDING EVENTS CONTINUE TO EMERGE IN ISRAEL

As the meeting place of three continents, Israel plays host to two annual migrations of millions of birds seeking summer in the North and the South, making it the perfect destination for some of the top international birding events. *Champions of the Flyway* (COTF) is an international bird race that celebrates the extraordinary miracle of bird migration. In 2016, the race will take place on March 29th in the migration hotspot of Eilat in southern Israel. Another major birding event, the 10th annual Eilat Birds Festival, will take place from March 20-27, 2016 at the Israel Ornithological Center. The festival, the most significant international event in the Western Palearctic birding scene, is designed to bring together birders from all over the world for an unforgettable week during the peak of spring migration.



## ISRAEL NAMED TOP WINE DESTINATION FOR 2016

*Condé Nast Traveler* has listed Israel as the third hottest wine destination for 2016, ranked among a list of nine top destinations. According to Laura Maniec, master sommelier: "Wine has been made here since biblical times, of course, but for much of its history, Israel's been known for kosher wines of dubious quality. A new breed of winemakers has set out to change that, by embracing modern, New World techniques and the principles of quality winemaking. Small, boutique wineries are

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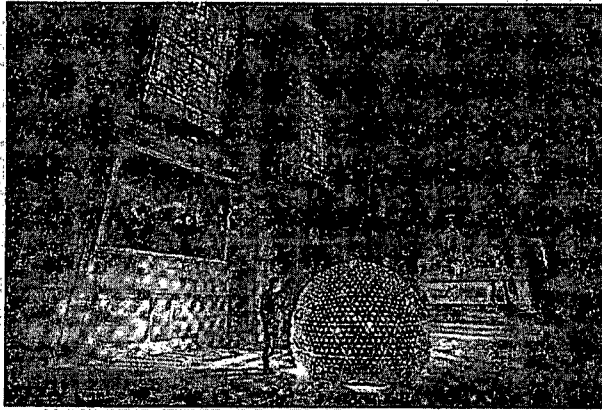
sprouting everywhere, particularly in the Galilee/Golan Heights and Judean Hills regions."



Find the full article [here](#).

## **INTERNATIONAL LIGHT FESTIVAL IN JERUSALEM: MAY 25 - JUNE 2, 2016**

Following the success of the Jerusalem Festival of Light last year, Jerusalem's Old City will once again transform into a magnificent backdrop for light installations, exhibits and performances in this year's spectacular event from May 25 - June 2, 2016. This celebration of light is once again expected to attract more than 250,000 visitors. This year, artists from Israel and abroad will present spectacular 3-D light exhibits, artistic sculptures and structures, and impressive videos projected onto buildings around the Old City.



## **JETHRO TULL - THE ROCK OPERA TEL AVIV**

Ian Anderson celebrates the life and times of the English agricultural inventor Jethro Tull with the announcement of a new series of concert tours beginning September 2015. The shows tell the story of the original Jethro Tull's life, re-imagined and illustrated with Anderson's best-known songs from rock band Jethro Tull's repertoire. The performance is in a quasi-operatic structure with virtual guests on video and some additional newly written songs.



Find more information [here](#).

## **NEW SELFIE STATION OPENS AT BEN GURION AIRPORT**

Israel Tourism Minister Yariv Levin recently inaugurated a new project that encourages tourists to capture their journey on social media as soon as they land in Israel. To make this fun for visitors, a new "Selfie Station" has just been placed at Ben Gurion Airport, so visitors can feel as though they're already sunning on the beach even before stepping out of the airport. This station is just the first of several selfie stations to be placed around Israel, with others planned for Jerusalem, Acre, Eilat and the Dead Sea.



## BRIAN WILSON TOURS IN ISRAEL

Beach Boy Brian Wilson is set to perform in Israel on June 8th at the Ra'anana Amphitheater, as part of a world tour celebrating 50 years of making music. The concert will include all the songs from the seminal Beach Boys album, *Pet Sounds*, released in 1966, and Wilson will be joined onstage by Beach Boys members Blondie Chaplin and Al Jardine.



Find more information [here](#).

## SKATEBOARDING THROUGH ISRAEL

Tel Aviv has the most established skate scene in Israel, boasting a large, modern outdoor park, while Jerusalem is home to one of the oldest skate shops in the country, Gili's Skateshop. The country has a very grassroots scene and a strong sense of community among skateboarders. Red Bull recently captured this vibrant skateboarding scene around Israel, particularly in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Be'ersheva and Jerusalem. Find these images [here](#).

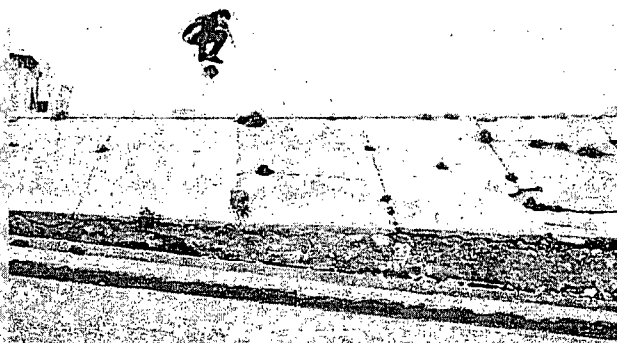


Photo Credit: DVL

## JERUSALEM DOES THE CHARLESTON

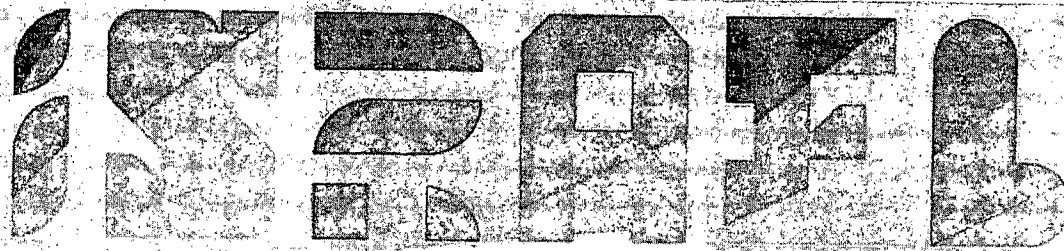
See the city come alive as locals break into dance,  
performing the Charleston on the streets of Jerusalem.



*Geoffrey Weill Associates*

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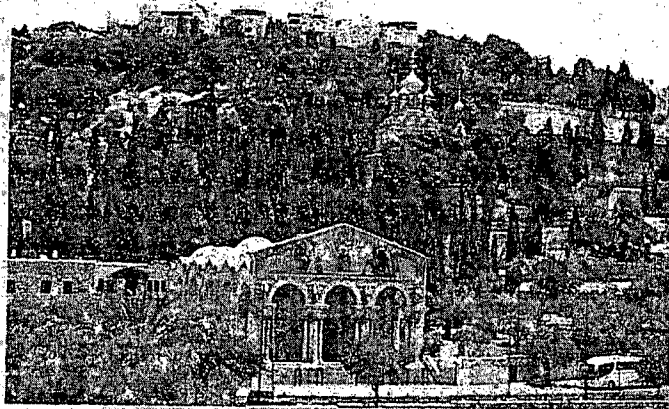
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### ISRAEL DRAWS CROWDS FOR EASTER

Tens of thousands of Christians are celebrating Holy Week this week in Israel, leading up to Easter, to visit the places described in the New Testament firsthand. The Catholic Holy Week officially began on March 20th with the celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Highlights of the day included the solemn mass at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher with the Blessing of the Palms and the traditional palm procession. The celebration continued from the church of Bethphage down the western slope of the Mount of Olives across the Kidron Valley and into the Old City of Jerusalem.



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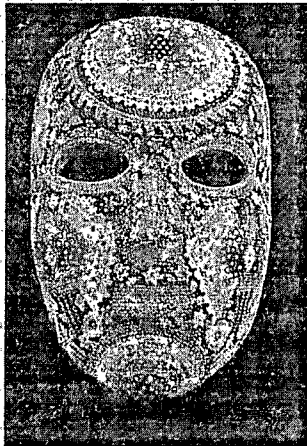
**WESTERN USA**



Find more information [here](#).

## NEW 'BEHIND THE MASK' EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM

Opening in time for Purim is the new "Behind the Mask" exhibition at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem. The exhibit is part of a new initiative at BLMJ called "Community Curates" that allows the public to dust off their treasures and put them on display for all to see. "Behind the Mask" features both ancient and modern masks from all continents and collectors all over Israel. Special guided tours, family-friendly activities and programming is available throughout the day. The exhibit will be on display until September 2016.



Find more information [here](#).

## AMERICAN TOURISM TO ISRAEL UP 7% IN FEBRUARY

2015 was the best year ever for American tourism to Israel and the trend is continuing in 2016, with a 7% increase in January and February 2016, compared to the same period last year. "We're very encouraged by this positive statistic," says Uri Steinberg, Israel Tourism Commissioner for North America, "and it bodes very well for the remainder of the year."

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## **ISRAELI HIKER STRIKES GOLD: 2,000-YEAR-OLD ROMAN COIN FOUND IN ISRAEL**

While hiking in eastern Galilee, Israeli Laurie Rimon discovered a gold coin so rare that archeologists say it may be one of only two of its kind in existence. The coin shows Emperor Augustus, founder of the Roman Empire and Caesar's heir. The other side is minted with Roman military legions. According to Israeli archeologists, it was created by Emperor Trajan to honor the Roman Emperors who reigned before him. The coin was difficult to use due to its high value - it was worth enough to cover a soldier's monthly salary. The Israel Antiquities Authority's plan is to publicly display the extraordinary artifact in museums soon.

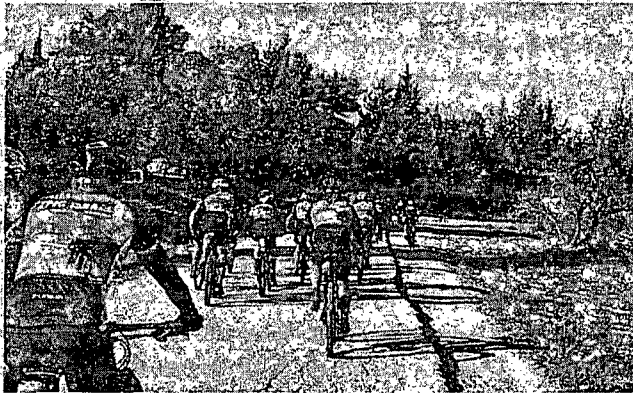


*(Photo Credit: Israel Antiquities Authority)*

## **EPIC ISRAEL HOSTS ULTIMATE MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE FOR**

## PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR RIDERS

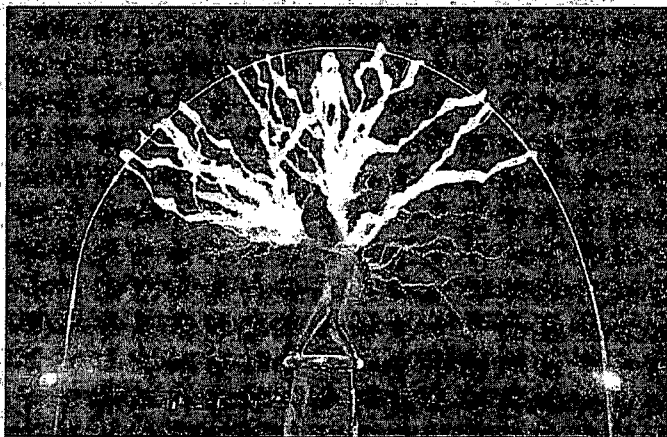
Epic Israel will challenge professional and amateur riders to the limit with a full board stage mountain bike race with long routes through spectacular views of nature. The 75- to 110-kilometer route changes annually, giving riders a challenging and versatile mountain biking experience with the goal of finishing the race within the time limit. The race will take place this year from September 29-October 1.



Find more information [here](#).

## INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL GEEK PICNIC TO TAKE PLACE IN JERUSALEM

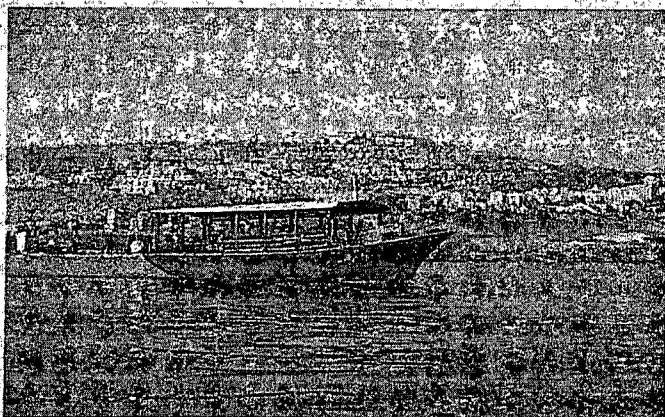
Geek Picnic, the international science and technology festival, makes its Israeli debut April 25-27 at Jerusalem's Sacher Park, a 40-acre green expanse in the city center. The event is geared towards tech and science professionals and science enthusiasts of all ages who are fans of gadgets, gaming, virtual-reality experiences and wearable tech. Approximately 45,000 visitors are expected to attend the three-day celebration of technological innovation, which will feature exhibits devoted to "The Lightning Show," "The Hand of God," "The World of 3D Printing," "Virtual Reality," "My Android Friend," "An Airborne Duel" and more.



Find more information [here](#).

## FIRST INTERNATIONAL HOLY LAND CHOIR FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED

The First International Holy Land Choir Festival "On The Lake" will take place on the shores of the Sea of Galilee from May 16-18, 2016. Choirs from around the world have been invited to participate with Israeli conductor and composer David Loden as the Musical Coordinator of the Festival. The theatrical backdrop for the festival is the impressive Berko Archaeological Park where the Southern Gate and walls of the Roman City can be seen.



Find more information [here](#).

## ICE RETURNS TO JERUSALEM YAMBAKERECH 2016

*Yambakerach*, an indoor skating rink, will be an added attraction for visitors at Cinema City through April 30, 2016. The ice skating rink offers children and the entire family an amazing, hands-on experience that includes "seals" to enable younger children to move about the rink in a seated position, with the help of their parents.



Find more information [here](#).

## **THRILLER LIVE MUSICAL COMES TO TEL AVIV AND HAIFA**

Michael Jackson's legacy lives on with the *Thriller Live* musical. The show celebrates the music of The Jackson 5 and the solo work of Jackson that made him the King of Pop. The musical will open in Israel on May 19 at the Heichal HaTarbut theater in Tel Aviv. There will be a total of eight shows in Tel Aviv from May 19-24, and another show in Haifa on May 26.



Find more information [here](#).

## UNESCO RECOGNIZES BET SHE'ARIM AS 15TH WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN ISRAEL

UNESCO declared the Necropolis of Bet She'arim in the area southeast of the city of Haifa as a World Heritage Site in 2015 making it the ninth site in Israel to hold this distinctive and prestigious certification. Bet She'arim became a renowned Jewish center due to the presence of the spiritual leader Rabbi Judah Hanasi, head of the Sanhedrin. Visitors can explore this and other World Heritage Sites in Israel on a daily basis throughout the year.



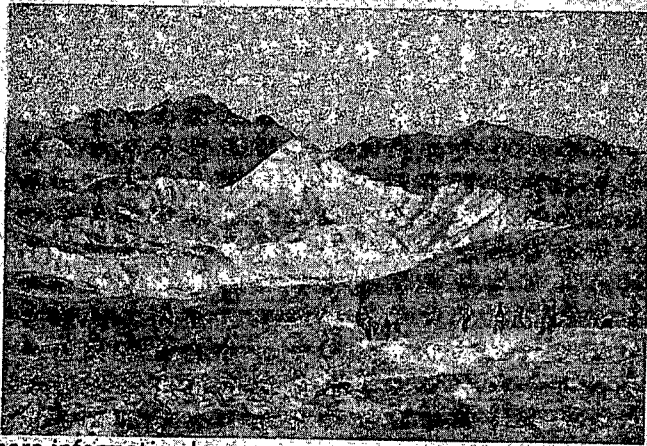
(Photo Credit: Israel Nature and Parks Authority)

Find more information [here](#).

## A 75-DAY JOURNEY ALONG THE ISRAEL NATIONAL TRAIL BEGINS MARCH 25TH

Starting March 25, 2016, backpackers from Israel and abroad will embark on a 75-day adventure walking the Israel National Trail with non-profit organization WalkAboutLove. Beginning in Eilat, the scenic trail winds through the Mitzpe Ramon Crater, the Arava Desert and the Negev, up to Jerusalem, Caesarea, the lush Galilee and the Golan Heights, finally ending at Mount Hermon. WalkAboutLove offers those interested in Israeli culture the incredible opportunity to discover the country through a combination of nature, culture, history and unique traditions.





Find more information [here](#).

## TEL AVIV SAMSUNG MARATHON 2016 A HUGE SUCCESS!

The 2016 Tel Aviv Marathon, which took place on February 29th, has been lauded as a huge success, welcoming some 40,000 runners from Israel and abroad participating in the nation's biggest international sports event. Celebrating the nonstop party life, the run began in Tel Aviv, along the shore of the Mediterranean Sea and into the historical city of Jaffa. The runners crossed the finish line to a lively music celebration at Ganey Yehoshua. The winner, William Kiprono Yegon from Kenya, finished the race in 02:10:51. The 2017 marathon is scheduled to take place on February 24, 2017.



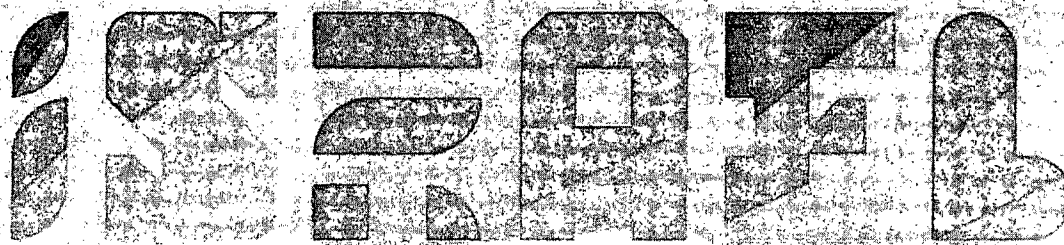
(Photo Credit: Ronen Topelberg)

Find photos from the Tel Aviv Marathon [here](#).

**Geoffrey Weill Associates**

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### OFFICIAL LINEUP FOR TEL AVIV PRIDE ANNOUNCED

Tel Aviv Gay Pride is expected to attract more than 180,000 participants from May 25 to June 9. Last year, some 30,000 LGBTQ tourists traveled to Israel for the rainbow-adorned celebrations, with only higher numbers expected for this year's 'Women in the Community' themed festival. In addition to the daily happy hours and non-stop beach parties, events range from conferences on women's health to vegan culinary tours of Tel Aviv. Festival highlights will include the LGBTQ film festival, a free Eurovision concert and the pinnacle of pride week, the Tel Aviv Pride parade on June 3rd.

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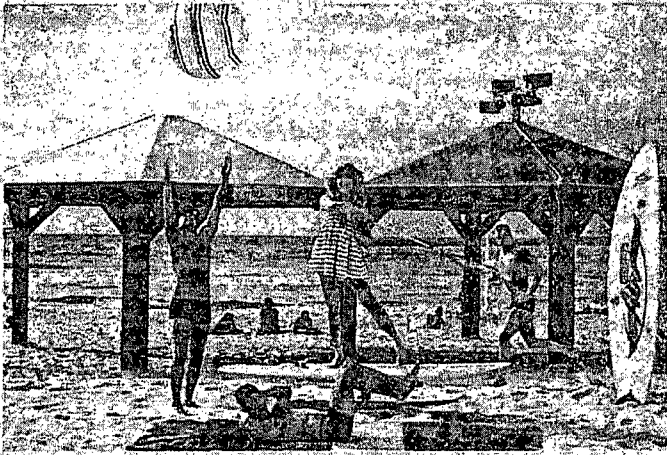
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Find the full lineup of events and more information [here](#).

## STAR-STUDED LINEUP FOR THIS SUMMER IN ISRAEL

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**CANADA**

**Toronto**

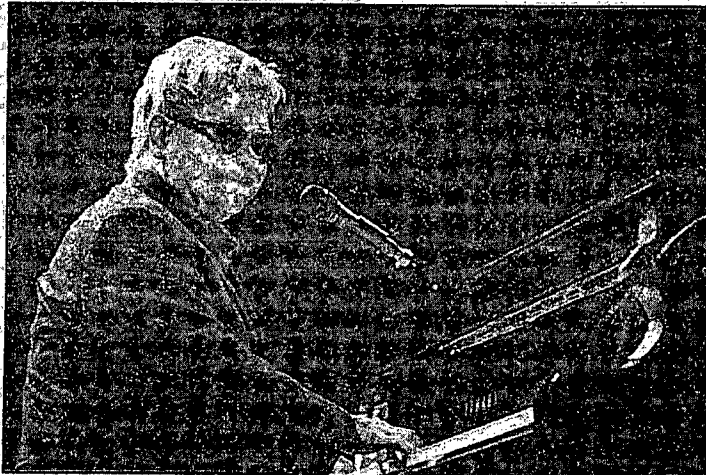
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There's a hot lineup of international artists for this summer's concert season in Israel. Fans can catch one of the many shows scheduled to hit the stage in Tel Aviv, Rishon Le Zion, and the Caesarea ancient amphitheater.

Headlining artists include:

- Chris Cornell: May 6-7
- Elton John: May 26
- Die Antwoord: June 8
- Barry Manilow: June 30
- Foreigner: June 14-15
- Buddy Guy: July 13
- Avicii: July 22
- Santana: July 30
- Sia: August 11
- Dire Straits Experience: September 7-9



(Photo Credit: Andrew Potter)

Tickets can be purchased online on the individual event websites, or ticket agencies such as [Eventim](#).

## 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL UNCOVERS ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PENDANT

A 12-year-old Israeli girl discovered an Egyptian amulet dating back more than 3,200 years last week. Neshama Spielman unearthed the rare artifact while participating in the Temple Mount Sifting Project, a program to sort through Temple Period rubble in Jerusalem. The pendant-shaped amulet bears the name of Egyptian ruler Thutmose III, affirming the artifact originates from pharaoh-era Egypt.



(Photo Credit: Adina Graham/City of David via AP)

For the full article, please [click here](#).

## INAUGURAL 'MEET IN GALILEE' SUMMIT SET FOR SEPTEMBER

A new summit, Meet in Galilee, has been organized in order to develop international conventions and cultural events in Israel. The first-ever summit will be held from September 24-26, 2016 and will include an international baroque opera festival and economic forum. The conference will focus on technology and the Middle East. Sessions will cover topics such as venture capital in Israel, digital transformation and cyber security. Tours of the Technion and visits to the Haifa technology incubator will also be offered. The baroque opera festival will hold its four concerts in the ancient city of Akko, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Concerts are under the direction of Christophe Rousset, an internationally renowned harpsichordist, orchestral conductor and creator of Les Talens Lyriques.

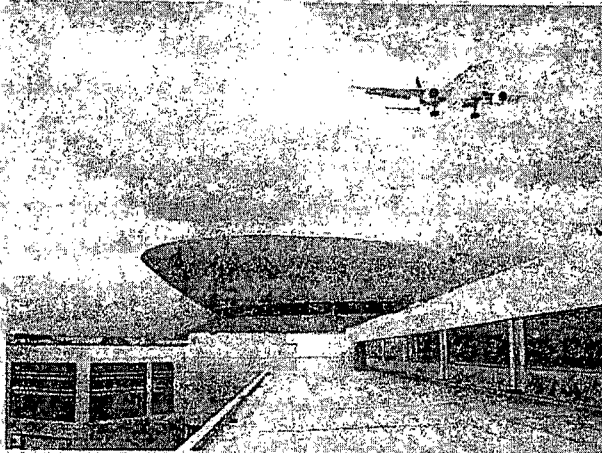


Find the full lineup of events and more information [here](#).

## NEW AIRPORT SHUTTLE OFFERS EASY SOLUTION FOR TRAVELERS

Transportation to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport just got a lot easier with the creation of a new shuttle. Secret Tel Aviv, a popular website aimed at helping international visitors in Israel, has partnered with Flo Shuttle to create the only door-to-door, 24/7 service shuttle between Ben Gurion Airport and Tel Aviv. The new shuttle provides a cost-effective, quality alternative to taxis and trains. Perks of the shuttle include no booking fees, free reservation changes and the option to privatize service for groups and families.

For reservations, visit the [Flo Shuttle website](#).

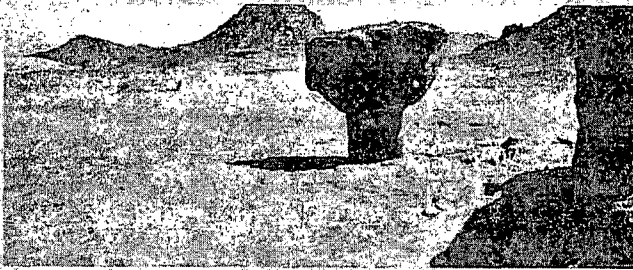


*(Photo Credit: Israel Ministry of Tourism)*

## TIMNA VALLEY VISITOR CENTER OPENS

The Timna Valley Visitor Center hopes to encourage tourism to the 15,000-acre park. A 30-minute drive from Israel's southernmost city, Eilat, the ancient copper mines, towering rock formations and breathtaking views make Timna Valley National Park an ideal spot for travelers. The new center offers interactive exhibits for visitors and will serve as an event hall for special occasions. In addition to the visitor's center, the Ramon Airport (set to open in 2017) will replace both the Eilat and Oyda Airports, the two primary airports servicing domestic and international flights to the south. Both projects fall under a greater initiative to increase tourism to the

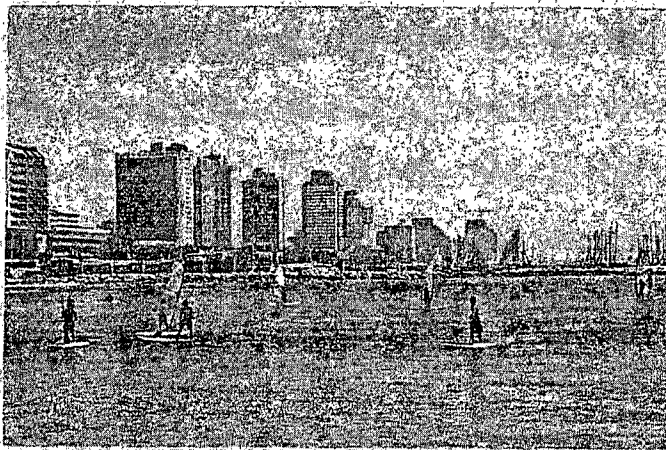
region and bring travelers to the park before heading straight to Eilat.



(Photo Credit: [www.parktimna.co.il](http://www.parktimna.co.il))

## MARITIME SPORTS SET SAIL IN TEL AVIV FOR ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Seafaring enthusiasts will flock to the city's beaches this year from April 18-28 for the annual Sail Tel Aviv Yafo event. The largest maritime sports event in Israel will dot the coastline with hundreds of surfers, kayaks, paddle boarders, and yachts participating in a host of water-sport competitions. Main events will take place on April 28 with the Tel Aviv yacht race, stand up paddle board competition and kayak competition. The highlight of the festival includes a large rally to the Jaffa Port and back. The event will also be open on April 27th for the public to join in a day of paddle boarding, kayaking, rowing and sailing.



(Photo Credit: Israel Ministry of Tourism)

Find more information [here](#).



## JERUSALEM BAR SERVES UP 'BIBLICAL BEER'

Award-winning Herzl Brewery in Jerusalem has created 'biblical beer,' an expert-crafted beer believed to taste like the fermented beverage served during ancient times. In addition to hops, yeast and water, the brewers used a replicated strain of 2,000-year-old wheat developed by geneticists at Tel Aviv University. "It's unlike anything I have ever tasted," stated brewery owner Itai Gutman. "It has a very dry taste, but it also has a strong aroma and suggestion of red fruit - almost like a syrup." This could be the beginning of a trend to recreate beer, wine, and other boozy delights from biblical times.



*Itai Gutman at the Herzl Brewery in Jerusalem  
(Photo Credit: Emil Salman)*

Find more information [here](#).

**Geoffrey Weill Associates**

Informational material is disseminated on behalf of the Israel Ministry of Tourism.  
Additional information available at the Department of Justice.

# WHAT WE JUST DUG UP

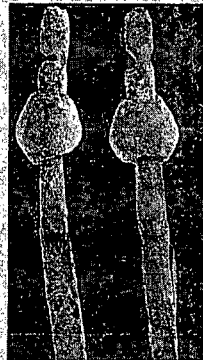
THE LATEST ARCHEOLOGICAL NEWS FROM ISRAEL



Winter 2016

## 6,000-YEAR-OLD ARTIFACT FOUND IN ISRAEL

An artifact dating back to the Late Chalcolithic period has been declared as the oldest-known evidence of smelted lead in the Levant. Found in a burial chamber in the Negev's Ashalim Cave, the roughly 6,000-year-old object is made of a piece of wood that measures nearly nine inches long and a 1.4-inch piece of lead. Analysis of the lead suggests that it came from the Taurus Mountains in Anatolia. "In this respect, it fits very well with what we know about the Chalcolithic culture, which was a highly developed culture with amazing abilities in art and craft," Naama Yahalom-Mack of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem commented.



Find more information [here](#).

## EXCAVATIONS INDICATE LEGUMES AS A STAPLE IN THE PREHISTORIC DIET

According to researchers at the Weizmann Institute and Israel Antiquities Authority, the prehistoric man living in the Galilee approximately 10,000 years ago preferred legumes in his diet. This

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### ISRAEL GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICES IN NORTH AMERICA

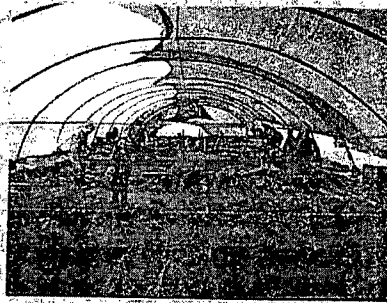
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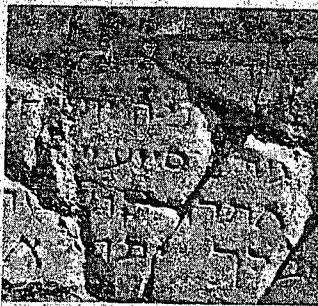
represents a significant discovery, as it draws a deeper understanding of the agricultural evolution in this area. Researchers have been examining the fava seeds found in recent archeological excavations at Neolithic sites in the Galilee in order to shed light on the nutritional habits of the people who lived in the area 10,000 years ago. Seeds found at these prehistoric sites have shown that the inhabitants' diet at the time consisted mainly of fava beans, as well as lentils, various types of peas and chickpeas.



Find more information [here](#).

### JUDEO-CHRISTIAN VILLAGE DISCOVERED AT KURSI BEACH

Excavations at the Kursi site on the shores of the Sea of Galilee have uncovered an inscription in Hebrew letters engraved on a large marble slab, dating back about 1,600 years. This is the first finding of this type of artifact in Israel, and confirms that the ancient settlement at the site was either Jewish or Judeo-Christian. Their findings have led researchers to analyze Jesus's visits to the area as described in the New Testament, and particularly to the "Land of the Gederenes," a name that refers to Kursi. According to the New Testament,



Jesus came to Kursi after crossing the Sea of Galilee from one anchorage to another. Since this is the only harbor in the area, the scholars believe that this story, together with the inscription indicating the Jewish origins of the settlement, provide archeological evidence that this site may indeed be the Kursi of the New Testament.

Find more information [here](#).

### RECREATING JESUS'S WINE

A growing number of wineries in Israel are working to recreate the wine of the Bible, combining ancient grape varietals with modern science to identify and produce the wine consumed thousands of years ago in the Holy Land. Eliyashiv Drori, a wine researcher at the Samaria Regional R & D Center at Ariel University, examines preserved grapeseeds found in archeological digs to identify the types of grapes used to make wine. His research has identified 120 varieties of grapes unique to the region, of which about 20 are suitable for making wine.

Find more information [here](#).

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### A 3,400-YEAR-OLD CITADEL IN THE BASEMENT

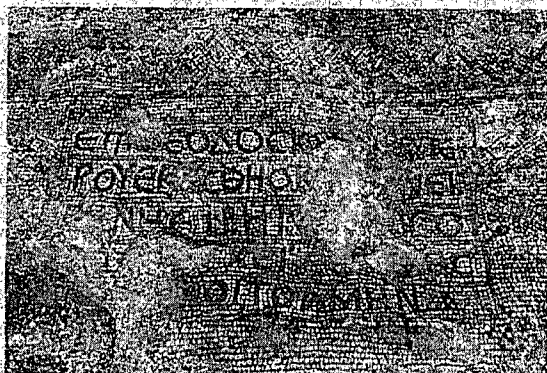
The remains of a 3,400-year-old citadel that were recently uncovered in an archeological excavation in the northern city of Nahariya will be integrated in a high-rise apartment complex currently under construction near the beach. According to excavation directors on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority, "it seems that the citadel which we uncovered was used as an administrative center that served the mariners who sailed along the Mediterranean coast 3,400 years ago. There was probably a dock alongside the citadel. Numerous artifacts were discovered in its rooms, including ceramic figurines in the form of humans and animals, bronze weapons and imported pottery vessels that attest to the extensive commercial and cultural relations that existed at that time with Cyprus and the rest of the lands in the Mediterranean basin."



Find more information [here](#).

### ANCIENT MONASTERY UNCOVERED IN ROSH HA-AYIN

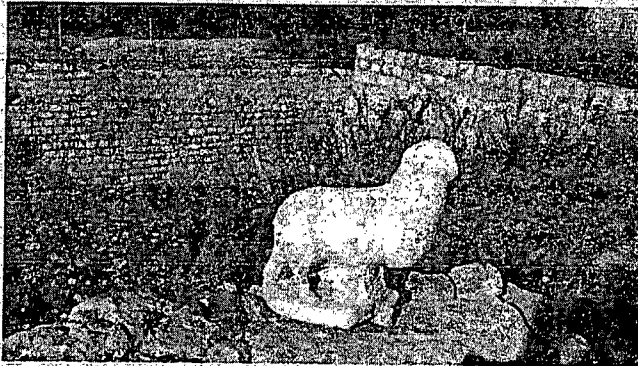
An impressive 2,700-year-old farmhouse and a 1,500-year-old church have recently been uncovered during extensive excavations that the Israel Antiquities Authority is carrying out in Rosh Ha-Ayin prior to the building of some new neighborhoods. The monastery, dating back to the Byzantine period, was uncovered on one of the hills in the area and included a church, an oil press, residential quarters and stables. The floors of the church were made up of colorful mosaics. Given the impressive findings, it was decided that the ancient remains will be conserved *in situ*, and will be displayed in the communal areas of the new neighborhoods that will be open to the public.



Find more information [here](#).

## A STATUE OF A RAM DISCOVERED NEAR AN ANCIENT CHURCH IN CAESAREA

An impressive marble statue of a ram was discovered on Christmas Eve (December 24, 2015) near an ancient church that dates back to the Byzantine period. The discovery was made in an archeological excavation being conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority in the Caesarea Harbor National Park. In Christian art, the ram is often depicted carried on the shoulders of the "Good Shepherd," and sometimes the ram is situated to the left or right of Jesus. In Christianity, the ram represents "the faithful" or Jesus himself.



Find more information [here](#).



# WHAT WE JUST DUG UP

THE LATEST ARCHEOLOGICAL NEWS FROM ISRAEL



Spring 2016

## HIKER FINDS 2000-YEAR-OLD COIN: SECOND OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD

An Israeli woman hiking in the eastern Galilee recently came across an incredibly rare ancient coin that, according to experts at the Israel Antiquities Authority, was minted in Rome in 107 CE. The front side of the coin features a portrait of the emperor "Augustus Deified," instead of the usual image of the emperor Trajan, while the reverse side contains symbols of the Roman legions and the name of the ruler Trajan. This coin is part of a series of coins minted by Trajan as a tribute to the emperors who preceded him. Experts believe the coin reflects the presence of the Roman army in the region some 2,000 years ago. The British Museum in London, until now, possessed the only known coin of this kind in the world.



Find more information [here](#).

## DISCOVERY OF FABRIC COLLECTION DATING BACK TO KING DAVID

A Timna excavation has uncovered an extensive fabric collection in the ancient copper mines of Timna. The mines are located deep in Israel's Arava Valley, north of Eilat on the Red Sea, and are believed by some

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to be the site of King Solomon's mines. This is the first discovery of textiles dating back to the era of David and Solomon, and sheds new light on historical fashions of the Holy Land. The arid conditions of the mines have resulted in the remarkable preservation of 3,000-year-old organic materials. Thousands of seeds from the biblical 'Seven Species' (the two grains and five fruits considered unique to the Land of Israel) were also discovered. Archeologists can now reconstruct the cultivation and domestication processes that have been preserved in the DNA of the seeds.



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Find more information [here](#).

### ROMAN WINERY FOUND IN JERUSALEM

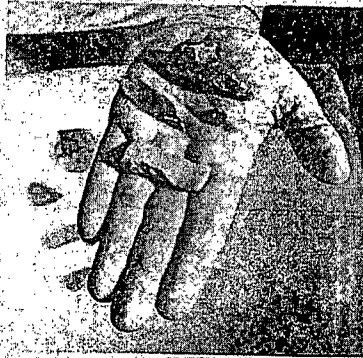
An impressive winery dating to the Roman or Byzantine period was found under the Schneller Compound, a former pre-World War II orphanage. The complex installation includes a pressing surface paved with mosaic and a pit in which a press screw was anchored to aid in extracting must from the grapes. Stalls were constructed for storing the grapes, and possibly for blending the must with other ingredients to produce different flavors of wine. Terra cotta pipes used for heating and clay bricks (some of which were stamped with the name of the Tenth Roman Legion) were also found, indicating the presence of a bathhouse.



Find more information [here](#).

### 7,000-YEAR-OLD SETTLEMENT IN NORTH JERUSALEM UNEARTHED

An important discovery in north Jerusalem revealed the remains of an ancient settlement from the Chalcolithic period, which dates back approximately 7,000 years. During the Chalcolithic period, man started using tools made of copper for the first time. According to the Head of the Israel Antiquities Authority's Prehistory Branch, "The Chalcolithic period is known in the Negev, the coastal plain, the Galilee and the Golan, but is almost completely absent in the Judean Hills and Jerusalem... Now, for the first time, we have discovered significant remains from 7,000 years ago." The discovery confirms the presence of a thriving settlement in the Jerusalem area in ancient times. Grinding tools, blades for harvesting cereal, and chisels for building all attest to the technological skills practiced in the local community.



Find more information [here](#).

#### BRONZE IMPLEMENTS DISCOVERED IN MAGDALA

A decorated bronze incense shovel and jug were recently uncovered in Magdala, a 2,000-year-old Jewish settlement on the Sea of Galilee. The excavations at Magdala, a Jewish settlement dating to the time of the Second Temple, have uncovered Jewish ritual baths (or *miqwe'ot*), streets, a marketplace, and a synagogue boasting mosaic floors. The incense shovel is one of ten others that are known in the country from the Second Temple period. Volunteers from Chile, Mexico, Italy and Spain came to Magdala in order to help excavations at the site.

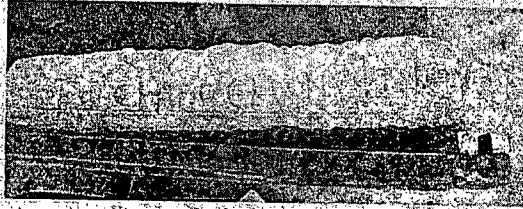


Find more information [here](#).

#### FUNERARY INSCRIPTIONS OF 'RABBIS' EXPOSED IN ZIPPORI CEMETERY

Three 1,700-year-old funerary inscriptions written in Aramaic and Greek were recently uncovered at Moshav Zippori in the Western Galilee. The two Aramaic inscriptions mention individuals referred to as "rabbis" who were buried in the western cemetery of Zippori; their names have not yet been deciphered. Zippori was the first capital of the Galilee, from the time of the Hasmonean dynasty until the establishment of Tiberias, in the first century CE. As

explained by the Kinneret Institute for Galilean Archaeology, "The importance of the epitaphs lies in the fact that these reflect the everyday life of the Jews of Zippori..."



Find more information [here](#).

